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MAR
13

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MAR
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D&D!

DATING!

STAR WARS!

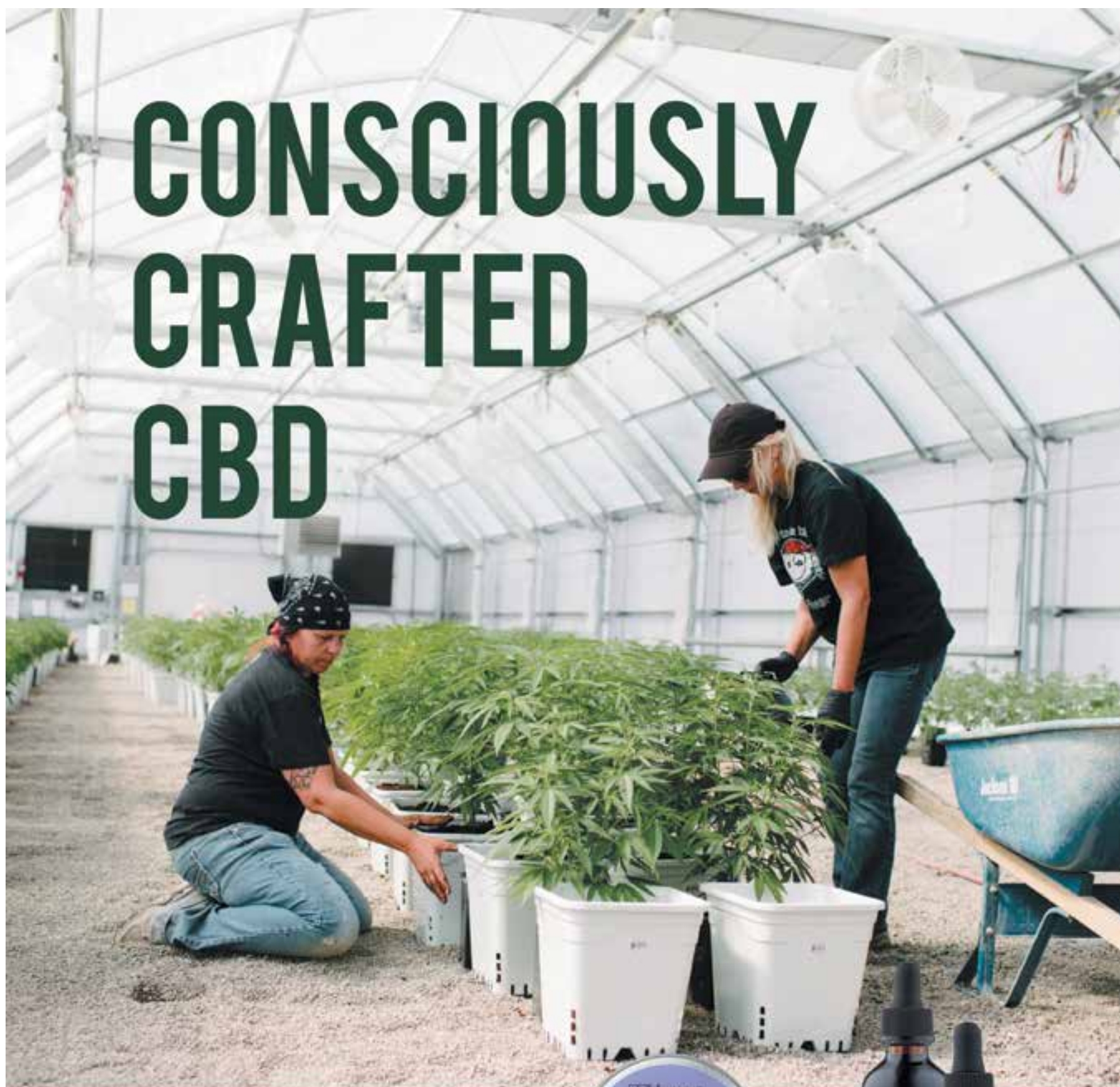
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Cleaning
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Sing
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Along
Out
Low
In the rain

FORTNIGHT

EDITOR'S NOTE



JOHNNY SAMPSON

"Your reference to sexual justice by getting your pussy stoned is a strange and sad revelation of where your head is buried," began a recent letter to the editor. "Is this just a blue state thing or what... It's a shame that you have to bring feminism into the bedroom now because you don't know what the fuck you are talking about... Most men pleasure their women first and are not cavemen who just want to shoot load[s] all over the walls, furniture, and ceiling fan and if they get off in your pussy well that's just a lucky shot that didn't miss the pot... Your attitude is primitive and archaic, it's 2019 so drop the feminist isolationist segregation crap and maybe you might finally find that guy who will give you 4, 5, 6, or 9 incredible orgasms that will blow your fucking mind, like a lot of women have. Why you think you can judge men is beyond me. I can't believe in 2019 a commercial magazine would print such a sexist discriminating article." The letter-writer did not include a headline or a link. No one on staff has any idea what article he's referring to.

ASK JAY INSLEE!

The governor and presidential hopeful takes questions from local constituents.

I recently got stung by a bee, and it turns out I'm allergic to both bee stings and the anti-allergy medicine. How can I make sure I don't get stung again?

—Janet, Sand Point

Janet, some stings hurt all of us, not just one person. We are the first generation to feel the sting of climate change, and we are the last generation that can do anything about it. The way things are going, we're not going to have any bees left by 2020.



My morning fuel is coffee, but my wife says it stains my teeth. I also think she has a problem with it because she's Mormon. What can I do?

—Hank, Beacon Hill

Once you said "fuel," my mind went immediately to the No Fossil Fuel Money Pledge that I recently signed. Why? Because our economy's reliance on fossil fuels and our political system's reliance on fossil fuel money are holding us back.

As a divorcée, I'm trying to wrap my head around the idea that change is okay. Change is good. It's healthy. Right?

—Shelly, Shoreline

Well, not all change, Shelly. Have you heard of climate change? This is our moment to act on climate change by investing in a clean energy economy. Defeating climate change is the defining issue of our time.

Do you have a question for the presidential hopeful?

Send it to askjayinslee@thestranger.com and it may be answered in a future column.

I, ANONYMOUS



STEVEN WEISSMAN

This morning, the bus was packed, people were standing from the front to the very back. The seats for the elderly and disabled were occupied by (1) a young hetero couple who looked like they were coming down from heroin, sleeping against each other, (2) a twentysomething female wearing earbuds, (3) a dude manspreading, and (4) an old guy, the only one rightfully seated there. An older woman boarded the bus and, although she appeared able-bodied, I noticed she was trembling. Not one person in the front seats even glanced up—they all had their faces in their phones. So I offered my seat, and the shaky woman gratefully accepted. Is this a millennial thing, a Trump-affected-world thing, a Seattle thing, a technology addiction thing? I don't know, but people need to be more aware of others: UNPLUG, WAKE THE FUCK UP, and PAY ATTENTION. **ANONYMOUS**

SOMETHING TO GET OFF YOUR CHEST?

E-mail 200 words or less to
ianonymous@thestranger.com



Seattle Weekly put out its final issue on February 27. The 42-year-old weekly newspaper had struggled for more a decade, with its average page size (determined by the number of ads sold) shrinking each year and the paper's staff being largely gutted in October of 2017. The *Weekly's* death means Seattle's major print-media environment has shrunk from two daily newspapers and two weekly newspapers (10 years ago) to just *The Stranger* and the *Seattle Times* (today), a dramatic and frightening development for the democratic health of the city.

Washington State governor **Jay Inslee** officially announced his candidacy for president of the United States. While his chances of winning the Democratic nomination are

approximately zero, Inslee has committed to focusing the entirety of his campaign on climate change, which means that the **existential crisis facing humankind** may even get a minute or two of airtime during this campaign season.

As for Inslee's **campaign logo**, observers quickly drew comparisons between it and the logos of software companies from the 1990s, over-the-counter sleep aids, and generic VHS cover art.

Speaking of Inslee, 10 state lawmakers called for him to rescind his nomination of **Russell Hauge**, a member of the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board. The lawmakers said Hauge perpetuated a **"toxic culture"** of enforcement at the state's pot regulator; Inslee said he disagreed and maintained his nomination.

Uber's bike-sharing company **JUMP** announced that its service area would expand to the entire city limits, meaning **Lime Bikes** now have a competitor in town. Both services cost 15 cents per minute on the electric bicycles, but JUMP is \$1 cheap-

er per trip because the company does not charge an unlock fee (as Lime Bike does).

The Washington State House passed a bill that will end personal and philosophical exemptions for the **measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine**. The bill was largely supported by pediatricians and public-health experts, but it faced fierce opposition from parents who get their medical advice from the woman who sells essential oils outside the co-op.

The **Art Institute of Seattle** closed suddenly, leaving students scrambling to figure out how to finish up their degrees. "I am bummed because the school has so much potential, but it was jut raided by a bunch of **greedy assholes** and ruined thousands of lives along the way," a teacher said.

A Washington State woman is trapped in Saudi Arabia. She moved there and married a Saudi businessman. They had a daughter together. But the marriage took a turn for the worse and now, post-divorce, she's trapped there. The country's guardianship laws make things ass-backward for women. Essentially, because **the laws grant men**

power over women, this American woman can't access her bank accounts, "leave the country, travel with her daughter, or seek legal help," reports the *New York Times*.

Alex Trebek, the host of *Jeopardy!*, has Stage 4 pancreatic cancer. He's 78 years old. He says he's going to keep fighting and keep working. We are all now painfully aware of his mortality and our own mortality. Wishing you all the best always, Alex. ■



COVER ART

by Jen Vaughn
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5 FORTNIGHT

What you missed if you’ve been dressing up as Princess Leia for the last two weeks.
Plus: Ask Governor Jay Inslee!

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How did the Pacific Northwest become the center of video-game creation in the first place?
By Lester Black

11 GEEK ISSUE

There is no better city than Seattle to let your geek flag fly. Read about gamers, cosplayers, DNA dating, and more.

25 HOW TO CON

Some tips and tricks for convention newbies, plus a breakdown of upcoming cons and geeky events.



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Seattle's Multibillion Dollar Gaming Industry

How exactly did the Pacific Northwest become the center of video-game creation in the first place?

BY LESTER BLACK

Seattle is a gaming town. Not just because we have a lot of people who play video games. Not just because it's easier to find a box of Catan or Scrabble than order a drink in a Seattle bar. This is a gaming town because we make billions of dollars a year from the business itself.

We don't just play games in Seattle—we make the games the rest of the world plays.

In case you're not aware, the Pacific Northwest is home to some of the biggest names in the gaming industry. Logos of local companies are displayed on the loading screen for gaming devices around the world. Microsoft's Xbox Game Studios along with Bungie created the blockbuster Halo franchise here. Valve, which created the enormously popular Steam service and games like Half Life, is here. Wizards of the Coast, the publisher of hugely popular card games like Magic: The Gathering, Dungeons & Dragons, and the Pokémon Trading Card Game is here. Nintendo's North American headquarters is here.

It all goes back to Boeing and early flight simulation software.

Even Amazon, our local digital-business behemoth, has announced that it is “all-in on games” after spending \$970 million on Twitch, a live video-game streaming site that has become hugely popular with people who like to watch other people play video games.

Any way you look at it, these companies create a big economic impact in the local area. A 2016 study commissioned by the Washington Interactive Network (WIN), a nonprofit that advocates for the local gaming industry, found that there are more than 430 local gaming companies that employ 20,800 people and give work to an additional 2,400 freelancers. These companies generated \$21.4 billion in revenue in 2015 and paid \$7.6 billion in labor income.

This industry is no secret in Eastside communities like Bellevue or Redmond, where at least one McMansion per block must be getting its mortgage paid with video-game money. Most of these video-game workers are professionals in fields like computer science, software engineering, law, or executive management.

If we really want to understand how geek



culture affects our local economy, we need to look at how these gaming salaries pay for everything from groceries to weed to cars. WIN added up the impact of these salaries and found that the gaming industry supports 94,200 jobs through “direct, indirect,

and induced impacts.”

That's a big influence all from one industry—so why is it here? Did our gloomy winters bring all of these gaming experts to the area? Nope. It turns out the very non-virtual world of aerospace engineering had more to

do with launching our local gaming industry, according to Kristina Hudson, the executive director for WIN.

“It all goes back to Boeing,” Hudson said. “Boeing had a wealth of engineers, and there was a time when they were doing flight simulation work. And that was when you started to get interactive software creation and media development.”

After Boeing put engineers to work on creating flight simulation technology, other companies followed. Nintendo opened its North American headquarters in Redmond in 1982. Microsoft expanded from just personal computing to personal video gaming in the late 1990s.

The local industry kept growing until it attained enough momentum that it became known worldwide. Gaming companies now want to move to the Seattle area because they know that the gaming “talent”—the software engineers and computer scientists who know how to build games—is here.

“When you're looking at drawing companies to the region or when companies are expanding, it's all about the talent. Companies want to be here to take advantage of that talent,” Hudson said.

Seattle's hotbed of engineering talent is helping our local industry spearhead the future of gaming: augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR).

Oculus, Facebook's VR arm, has an office in Redmond and has been pushing other local companies to create products for their VR platform the Oculus Rift. Jeff Pobst, the CEO of Hidden Path Entertainment, said that his company “had no plans” to get into VR when it started in 2006. But Oculus convinced Hidden Path to produce VR games, and the Bellevue company now has seven VR titles.

“The Seattle area in general is one of the top places for game development in the country, and because of our confluence of artists, designers, and technologists... that opens up the opportunity for working in VR and AR, where you have to be creative but you also have to be very strong technically,” Pobst said.

Most people connect VR technology with gaming, but it's already starting to transition into a vast array of other industries. Pobst said VR technology is already being used by industries as disparate as government, medicine, and real estate. VR technology is still relatively new, with lots of room for technological improvement, which means one thing for Seattle: There's plenty of work in the future for the local gaming industry.

And Seattle is going to keep being part of the future of gaming—and tech itself—worldwide. ■

Your Complete Guide to March Events in Seattle



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THE GEEK ISSUE!

Stranger writers look at the many ways that geekdom manifests around Seattle.

INTRO BY LEILANI POLK

I always thought of myself as a geek—I grew up loving all things sci-fi and fantasy, dabbled in role-playing games, went to a few cons, participated in some fierce video game play, loved up on comics and graphic novels. But after working on this issue, I feel like I've barely scratched the surface of geekdom. I also discovered that there is no better city than Seattle to let your geek flag fly.

There are more than 430 gaming companies in the area, and they make a huge economic impact. On page 8, Lester Black offers an overview of Seattle's lucrative gaming industry, which generated \$21.4 billion in revenue in 2015 and supported 94,200 jobs through "direct, indirect, and induced impacts."

Matt Baume sheds some light on a group of young people at Lake Washington Girls Middle School who, under the helpful guidance of school tech director Ethan "Mr E." Schoonover, have gotten into Dungeons

& Dragons and are engaging in self-directed storytelling, art, and math while unleashing their imaginations and gaining unexpected confidence and leadership skills. See page 13.

Timothy Kenney takes a look at a newish crop of dating apps that match you up based on your DNA—quite possibly the geekiest way to find love. Read more on page 21.

Nathalie Graham has not only been to her fair share of cons, but has some tips and tricks for newbies, since she was a newb once, too. Her how-to guide on page 25 is paired with a breakdown of cons coming up in 2019 (including this weekend's giant Emerald City Comic Con) as well as geek-centric event highlights that are happening around town in the next few weeks. She also profiled the University District's "coffee haven for geeks," Wayward Coffeehouse, for this week's Food & Drink story, see page 55.

Star Wars can completely change your worldview and inspire hardcore Lucasfilm-approved fan groups like Jet City Saber Guild. Charles Mudede opines on both on page 17.

The franchise can also spur tangible creativity. We look at the work that went into two *Star Wars*-themed costumes by local award-winning cosplayer and guild member Torrey Stenmark: Princess Leia and Padmé Amidala. The latter earned her a Best in Class, Master division award at Norwescon, and took more than 50 hours to put together. See the costumes on page 19.

And then there's Lisa Weeks, marketing master, Geekkaraoke founder, organizer of Seattle Game Developers meet-up, and cofounder of soon-to-be-debuted gaming company TurboPlay, who's turned her weirdness (and penchant for costuming and wigs) into professional success. Find out more about her (and feel like geek deadbeat) on page 23. ■

Seattle's oasis

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COURTESY OF LAKE WASHINGTON GIRLS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Another successful *Dungeons & Dragons* adventure in the books—go team!

Class of Imagination

Dungeons & Dragons has a new class of converts, and they're amassing at Lake Washington Girls Middle School.

BY MATT BAUME

In an unassuming red-brick building between Capitol Hill and the Central District, a pirate thief named Scarlet is plotting to overthrow the king and queen.

Hired by a humble elf to end the plutocratic reign of the twin regents, Scarlet and a band of adventurers infiltrated a castle last month, passed themselves off as royals from abroad, and had begun plotting a surprise attack when their parents arrived to pick them up.

In our world, Scarlet is Stella McDaniel, a sixth grader at Lake Washington Girls Middle School. But every Friday afternoon, she becomes a rogue in a game of *Dungeons & Dragons* that has captured the imagination of the student body and, even more impressively, has prompted dozens of students to remain after school for hours.

Though described as quiet by her parents and teachers, Stella lights up when describing her group's adventures, and she acknowledges that the game has changed her over the last few months. "I guess I'm more confident," she said after effusively recounting Scarlet's exploits. "There's a lot of decision making in D&D, and even if you make mistakes, you can usually fix them."

She paused, then added in a brash tone that one might expect from a pirate thief, "Unless you *die*."

After listening to my conversation with her normally reserved child, Stella's mom, Mandy Leven-

berg, texted me: "Wow. My kid just blew me away."

Stella isn't alone in her newfound enthusiasm for tabletop role-playing games. In the last year, about a third of the school's students have started playing *Dungeons & Dragons*. A game stereotypically enjoyed by nerdy boys has become the latest pastime for local girls ages 11 to 13.

In the last year, about a third of the school's students have started playing *Dungeons & Dragons*.

That's thanks in large part to Ethan "Mr. E" Schoonover, the school's technology director, who started the D&D club with only a few students. Over the last year, he's watched as the game helped formerly shy girls emerge from their shells, learn leadership skills, and unleash their imagination with a confidence they never knew they had.

Though it was a hard sell at first, Schoonover knew how to win over parents and colleagues. "I emphasize that there's face-to-face interaction—

and no screens involved," he said.

An average session of D&D consists of a small group of people collaboratively describing a fantasy adventure that exists in their shared imagination, not unlike a drama club improv game. The rules are simple—essentially, all a player needs to know to begin is that they determine what their character does, and then they roll a special set of dice to find out whether their character succeeds. Players can customize characters to excel at certain skills, allowing them to boost the result of dice rolls—and so the game simultaneously hones inquisitive storytelling skills and strategic planning.


But that explanation doesn't capture what *actually* happens at the table—laughter, tension, seat-of-your-pants fantasy adventures in settings as varied as medieval hamlets, vampire castles, and outer space. The game is a reason to socialize, to relax, to challenge yourself, and to tell a story as a group.

There are three separate D&D programs at Lake Washington Girls Middle School. The Friday afternoon club has been happening for a little over a year and includes about 30 members. There's also a summer camp between school years and an elective class that meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the semester.

Schoonover grew up playing *Dungeons &*

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COURTESY OF LAKE WASHINGTON GIRLS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mr. E encourages the same sense of D&D ownership that he felt as a kid.

Dragons in rural Wisconsin in the late-1970s and early-'80s, à la the boys of *Stranger Things*. "It was a game marketed toward people like me," he said. "I've had a sense of ownership of the game and never thought twice about it."

Schoonover spent the first half of his career working in tech for multinational advertising firms. A few years ago, feeling like something was missing, both he and his wife (a former hedge fund analyst) decided to leave their old jobs behind and pursue more meaningful work as educators.

He immediately noted that young women and girls didn't feel as though D&D was for them—ironic, given that the team that originally developed the game included women like Jean Wells, Penny Williams, and Rose Estes.

There was some initial skepticism. "I heard the question 'Isn't that devil worship?'" Schoonover recalled. That's a holdover from the "satanic panic" of the 1980s, during which religious fundamentalists convinced large swaths of the country that literal devils lurked behind everyday activities. In truth, Dungeons & Dragons is as connected to devil worship as a game of Parcheesi, though the stigma lingers. "I hear all the time from educators in the southern United States that it's a huge issue to overcome," Schoonover said.

There was also the somewhat more germane question of educational relevance. "I was skeptical at first," Mutschler admitted, but said she changed her mind after she eavesdropped on the club. "There is clear story structure here, there's definitely math, and those connections became clear."

And there's another benefit: The class has sparked obvious excitement in learning, even among students who didn't initially think they'd be interested.

When parent Jason Leong helped his daughter Hi'ilei choose her classes for the current semester, he noticed that "Swords, Sorcery, and Statistics" was actually all about D&D. Once Hi'ilei realized what she was in for, she wanted to back out, but he encouraged her to give it a try.

"After the first session, she just couldn't stop gushing about how much she loved it," he said. "As a parent, I really enjoyed seeing her try something new... It became her passion."

As the game's popularity grew, Schoonover invited guests to visit, including designers from Renton-based Wizards of the Coast, the Hasbro-owned publisher of D&D, and local independent creators.

One of those guest speakers was Jen Vaughn. An artist and performer, Vaughn created the cover of this issue of *The Stranger*, illustrates and writes for the monthly role-playing periodical *Rolled & Told*, and also appears on the D&D podcast *d20 Dames*. (Full disclosure: I myself host a D&D podcast called *Queens of Adventure*, and I've collaborated with Vaughn on crossover projects.)

On her first visit to the school, "I created a bunch of humanoid, gnome, dwarf, and tiefling bases—basically paper dolls, but not gendering them," Vaughn said, and showed the students various illustration techniques. She recently returned to do the same with mounted steeds.

"That's one of my favorite things to draw, and it's the bane of many cartoonists," she said. "So I was like, 'I'm going to start the kids off young.' And one of them was like, 'Now I can draw one thing!'"

But these lessons are about more than

The game hones inquisitive storytelling and strategic planning.

"There were almost no girls here who knew anything about D&D," he said. "One of the girls brought up *Stranger Things*, and we talked about starting the club." He explained that he wanted to foster the same sense of D&D ownership that he experienced in his youth.


The club started with six students and gradually grew to around 30. It might have remained an extracurricular activity if it hadn't caught the attention of Lindsey Mutschler, a seventh grade humanities teacher and dean of teaching and learning. Mutschler works with faculty to write curricula and align study between classes, and her interest was piqued by the sight of students spending hours engaged in self-directed storytelling, art, and math.

"I had never played D&D," she said. "I knew what it was, but I'd never seen it in action. And it was a combination of storytelling and play and drama and math and statistics—there were clear curricular connections that we could put in action, formalize, and name."


Mutschler approached Schoonover about turning the club into a class, and they came up with the name "Swords, Stories, and Statistics."

"We've always been pretty playful with our electives," said Mutschler, who also teaches a graphic novel class. In this case, "It just took off. I would hear them talking about story lines between classes. It lives beyond the walls of the club, and it was really cool to see an imaginary world that they'd created."

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just drawing horses. "It's showing them the creativity within borders," Vaughn said. "A lot of times if you give a kid a piece of paper, it's intimidating. Provide them with a little structure, and they go bananas."

Minimal though the requirements are, the game's framework provides a lattice for student creativity. Vaughn helped one student design a costume that doubled as a giant bagpipe and also a flotation device that could come in handy during a water landing. Another student wanted a giant hedgehog mount, and so they worked out what kind of saddle it would require.

"It's more than a game," she explained. "They're working on world-building togeth-

bit of a rural kid," said Stella's father, Clay McDaniel. "I think the imagination and the storytelling that a multiday, multilayered campaign brings out of everyone who plays has caused her to make worlds. And then she wants to share them with us... That excitement is more than we normally get from her."

"It's the right place for her," said Levenberg. "Removing stigma from things that, at that age, could have stigma attached to them."

Schoonover has observed similar effects with other students. "I see girls who didn't know each other, didn't know each other's names, girls across grades who hang out and talk in the halls, eating lunch together. Friendships have been forged."



COURTESY OF LAKE WASHINGTON GIRLS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Kids are actually excited to come to school on the days they play D&D.

er. They're working on creative problem solving. And because it's so open-ended, there's the impetus to not just reach for a weapon."

As is the case for many women, Vaughn felt for years like she wasn't welcome in geek culture, despite her enthusiasm. An occasional renfaire performer, "I grew up reading fantasy books from the library, and I would put myself in the male character," she said.

She gave Piers Anthony's classic Xanth fantasy novels a shot, but was disappointed to find hacky sexism: "All women are the same inside. They differ only in appearance and talent. They all use men," reads a line in the first book of the series, 1977's *A Spell for Chameleon*.

"It was like someone handing me a sword, and I'm like, 'Cool sword!' But it's also stabbing me at the same time," she recalled. "Someone once said, 'Being a woman is realizing all the things you loved as a kid hate you.'"

Her experience isn't unique. When I asked Mutschler if she'd ever played, she sounded apologetic. "You know, I always wanted to in high school and college, and I never got up the nerve," she said. "I thought, 'It's a boy's game. I'm going to make a fool of myself.'"

"When I was younger, it was not really open to me," said Mandy Levenberg, Stella's mother. "My brother and his friends would go in the basement and play these endless sessions of D&D, and I never once got invited. I didn't have any girlfriends who were peers who were playing D&D."

Now, watching the impact of the game on her daughter, she notes: "The aperture has opened on a game that was largely male... She is just enamored. Most kids want to be done with their day, and she looks forward to it every week... We've found her to be her most extroverted self in the context of D&D at school."

"She's a little bit of an introvert and a little

He said parents have commented in wonder that their kids are excited to come to school on the days they get to play D&D. When classes were canceled during February's snowpocalypse, Schoonover got an e-mail about a group of girls who'd gathered at a parent's house to continue their adventure, and had recruited a neighbor boy who was new to the game.

"It's a perfect inversion of my experience in the '80s," Schoonover said.

This isn't the first time that experts have noted the developmental benefits of role-play. Kirkland-based nonprofit Game to Grow uses D&D in a therapeutic context, with game sessions run by licensed therapists.

Schoonover has picked up some pointers from the organization, like the observation that player-generated characters may be aspirational or de-aspirational. "So I try to be aware of the type of character the student is playing," he said. "Are they playing a character that reflects their anxieties?... That can shape the questions I ask them: 'How can your character come out, they're feeling really shy, what can they do for themselves to make themselves more comfortable talking to the guard at the gate?'"

Schoonover is currently working on resources for teachers who want to introduce D&D into their classrooms, and he invites other educators to get in touch through his website or Twitter. His advice? "Try to identify a couple of students that can be your enthusiastic supporters, who really want to play. And try to be really present." A little adult supervision, he found, goes a long way in setting up students for success and giving them the nudge they need to become leaders.

"Some people might think it's nerdy," said Stella. "It's much more fun, you use your imagination a lot. I think people who play D&D are super cool." ■



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COURTESY OF JET CITY SABER GUILD

This is what serious, Lucasfilm-approved fandom looks like.

Saber Enlightenment

Star Wars changes lives and inspires deadly earnest groups like the Jet City Saber Guild.

BY CHARLES MUDEDE

For complicated reasons—busy parents, culture shock, lack of friends outside my family circle—I reached the age of 8 without seeing a single movie. The whole business was a mystery to me. Because everyone was talking about *Star Wars* that summer (it was 1977), I begged my Maiguru Sana (Auntie Sana, my mother's big sister) to take me to a screening of it in Wallingford. She agreed. She, too, had never seen a movie in her life, even though she was 33 at the time.

We traveled to Wallingford, we entered the theater, we sat near the front row, the spectacle began, the spectacle ran, the spectacle ended—and I was totally trans-

I went into *Star Wars* a Christian, and I walked out of it an atheist.

formed. (My maiguru, on the other hand, slept through the whole thing—even the explosive space battle couldn't wake her up.)

Now to explain the cause behind my great transformation. Before seeing the movie, I understood the war of Good against Evil to be an entirely Christian one: God versus Satan. The war happened on the ground, in the sky above, and in the immense dark space beyond the moon. The universe was ordered by heaven and hell. So imagine the shock of seeing on the screen a whole different order, a whole different war between the forces of Good and the forces of Evil; a war, furthermore, that made no mention of Jesus, or Lucifer, or the star of Bethlehem, the Romans, the beasts in The Book of Revelation, or the Last Supper. Yet, even in the total absence of the Christian drama of good and evil, I still recognized the drama of good and evil in a faraway galaxy.

In the bright afternoon light of that day, I

realized that God was limited and what was infinite was the Good itself, and that the Good could take on different shapes (Obi-Wan Kenobi, John the Baptist, Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia, Mary Magdalene). On the bus back to my aunt's apartment, my head was on fire. The fictional world of that galaxy far, far away changed my real world on earth. I went into *Star Wars* a Christian, and I walked out of it an atheist.

It is for this reason that I did not find it at all funny or wacky when I learned from a Cornish film student, Kyra Del Moral, of the existence of a whole institute in Seattle that is devoted to the galactic art of lightsaber combat: the Jet City Saber Guild. I understood the importance of engaging fully with this work of science fiction—participating in its culture, rules, laws, and wars.

The guild—which is officially recognized by Lucasfilm—meets every Thursday. Members performed a vigil at the Space Needle for the death of Carrie Fisher (Princess Leia Organa of Alderaan) in 2016 (with lightsabers raised), and they'll stage a few performances at this weekend's Emerald City Comic Con.

If you are a beginner joining the guild, you will learn how to fall, how to roll, how to leap, and to how use the defining Jedi weapon. And, most important of all, the guild has strict costume standards. The absence of complete seriousness will only diminish the reality, the experience of true lightsaber fights—an absolute commitment to the *Star Wars* universe is required.

We can imagine that entering Seattle Unity, the South Lake Union building that houses the guild, is, for a member, like entering another world that can transform their real world. This is why, when leaving the guild after hours of galactic fights in proper *Star Wars* garb, a member might see the night clouds and the bright moon and the terrific traffic jam on Denny Way with different eyes. They have returned to Seattle from a galaxy that's far, far away. ■



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The Hard Work of Cosplay

How an associate faculty member at Shoreline Community College transforms herself into *Star Wars* characters.

BY LEILANI POLK
PHOTOS BY TORI DICKSON

Cosplay is, contrary to what the name implies, quite a lot of work, but it's also—as everyone I've ever talked to about it who does it insists emphatically—quite a lot of fun.

Case in point: Torrey Stenmark, a local cosplayer who's won awards for her costuming. She's been a Seattleite since moving here more than a dozen years ago from Colorado to pursue a graduate degree in organic

chemistry at the University of Washington. She inserted herself into the local geek community after attending her first con, Norwescon in 2007, which challenged her sewing capabilities (she'd previously done costuming with the medieval reenactment group Society for Creative Anachronism), while simultaneously introducing her to a wellspring of welcoming, like-minded people. "One of the things I love about cosplay

and costuming is that so much of it is very friendly and supportive," she explained.

Amid working as an associate faculty in the Department of Chemistry at Shoreline Community College (where she's been for nine years), and putting in hours at Geek-GirlCon starting in 2013 (first as a volunteer, then a staffer), Stenmark has continued ramping up her game with each character. She is even a member of two different

Lucasfilm-approved *Star Wars* costuming groups: the Rebel Legion (Alpha Base) and Jet City Saber Guild.

Her *Star Wars* costumes are a particular delight (she has four), so I decided to feature my two favorites: Princess Leia Organa and Padmé Amidala Naberrie—daughter and mother. Both costumes feature components that took some work, though the latter was a 50- to 60-hour project.

Stenmark's interpretation of Princess Leia is inspired by the classic 1970s-era movie poster illustration for *Star Wars*, where Luke Skywalker is holding his lightsaber over his head and Leia is kneeling next to him with a blaster. "It's a combination of her two costumes in *Star Wars*. The belt and the hairstyle look like her classic senatorial white dress, while the dress itself looks more like her ceremonial throne room gown."



She hand-built the blaster and belt from scratch: "The hilt and trigger were scavenged from a toy *Star Wars* gun, the barrel and all its pieces are PVC pipes and fittings from the plumbing aisle at the hardware store, and I added a few custom plastic pieces to match the reference illustration. I painted and weathered it myself and then added the orange tip back in from the toy. The belt is leather with brass plates. I cut and dyed the leather; cut, filed, and polished the brass plates and disks; and then riveted them all together."

The gown is rainbow silk that goes from purple to pink to orange and finally yellow, with each section of color individually hand-dyed. The dyeing process itself took an afternoon, about three hours, but: "I spent a good month and a half thinking about the dyes, testing the colors, testing the process, and trying to work through the methodology in my head... I often find that when I am procrastinating on one specific part of a project, it's because I need more time to think about it and solve problems. So while it took a few hours to dye the dress, it took a little under two months to be ready to dye it."

Stenmark built and styled the wigs for both Leia and Padmé. The latter is more of a structural headdress, its six headbands sculpted from paper clay, painted, and inset with freshwater pearls. Bobby pins and hair spray (Aqua Net works best) are also key structural components. Both wigs are stored on Styrofoam wig heads. "I like to joke that I have the severed heads of the Skywalker women in my costume storage."

She also took home four awards for her re-creation of Padmé's look in a scene from *Attack of the Clones* (where she and Anakin have their first kiss at her family's lakeside retreat on her home planet), including Best in Class, Master Division at Norwescon in 2012, and Best Dye Job, Master Class at the World Science Fiction Convention in 2015. "There's an art book of costumes from the *Star Wars* movies called *Dressing a Galaxy*," she explained. "It has beautiful photos and descriptions of the costumes, mostly from the prequel movies. My gown matches the written description of the original costume in every detail. I'm quite proud of that."



Stenmark is currently working on a new character: Galadriel, the royal elf from *The Lord of the Rings*. Watch her progress and see more of her cosplay on Instagram @tereshkovacostuming.

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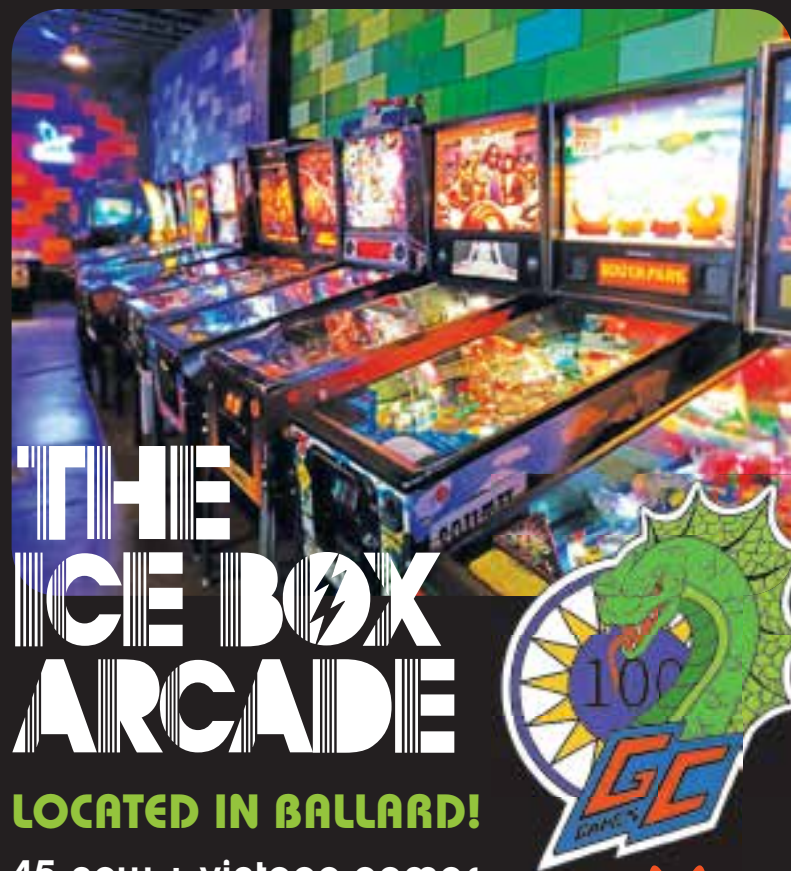
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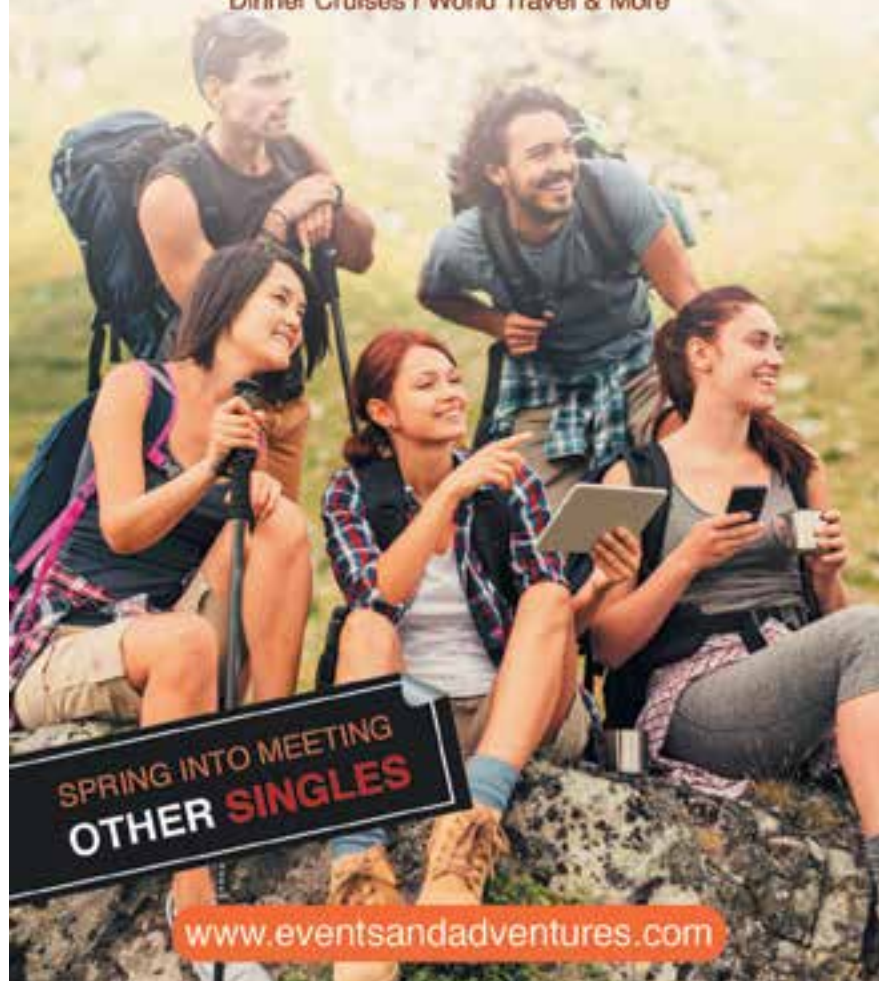
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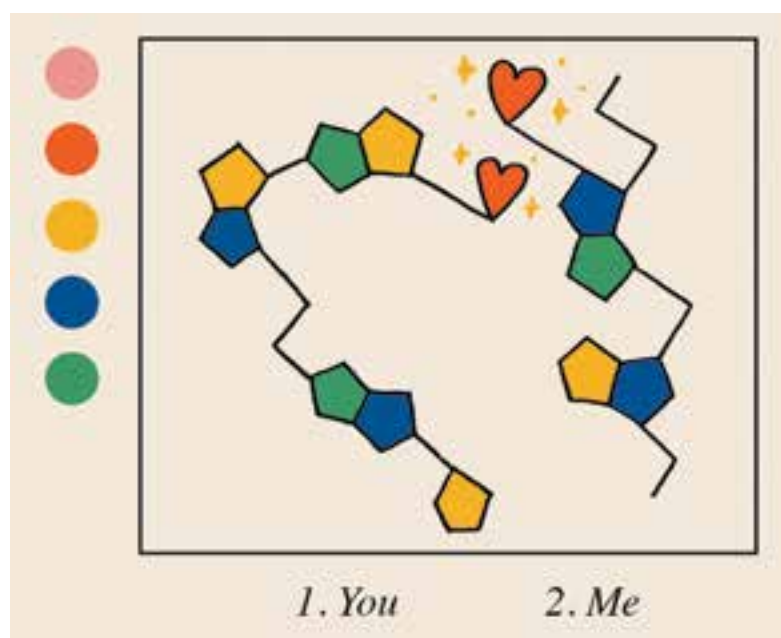
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JENA PYLE

The Geekiest Way to Find Love

DNA may be the newest romance language.

BY TIMOTHY KENNEY

Geeks don't seem to have much luck in the romance department. Pop-culture stereotypes emphasize hopeless celibacy and unrequited longing. But in real life, these clichés don't really hold up, especially with the rise of online dating. Nearly 25 percent of people under the age of 34 use online dating apps, with niche communities like Dating for Muggles and Trek Passion attracting superfans looking to bond. Millions of people browse these sites, but the hottest new dating technology is something only the nerdiest romantics could love: DNA-based matchmaking.

You know how people describe that unmistakable emotional connection you have with someone as chemistry? Turns out there is actual chemistry at play. A growing body of evidence suggests that part of human attraction is based on just a few genes that control receptors in our immune system—and in these instances, opposites attract. People with different genes, and therefore different abilities to fight disease, are more likely to find each other attractive. Evolutionarily speaking, this makes a lot of sense, as it means producing offspring with a wider range of immune defenses than either parent.

Despite what we may think, modern romance still has much to do with our evolution as a species. We are, after all, just really smart primates. The quintessential DNA mate-choice study was affectionately dubbed the “Sweaty T-Shirt” experiment. It was both disgusting and groundbreaking. Researchers had the study's male participants wear the same T-shirt nonstop for two days, and then female participants smelled the shirts and rated how attracted they were to the body odor of each one. The results showed that the women favored the natural musk of men with genes that differed from their own. This study not only confirmed that we sense these genes through scent, but it also paved the way for a new online dating industry.

Geeky singles who get tired of swiping right on Tinder or refreshing their eHarmony account can now turn to several

science-driven dating companies, including Gene Partner, Pheramor, and DNA Romance, whose CEO, Dr. Tim Sexton, actually came up with the idea for his app while out on an Ok-Cupid first date with his now-wife and DNA Romance cofounder, Judith Bosire. More than 15 million people have taken direct-to-consumer genetic tests, but the user pool for these apps pales in comparison to more established dating services. Sexton wouldn't give me exact figures, but he said DNA Romance has between 8,000 and 12,000 users, primarily in the US. This begs the question: Why not just embed this technology in a platform people are already using?

“When we started back in 2014, DNA testing wasn't as popular as it is now,” Sexton said. “It's definitely something we'd like to do and integrate into many larger dating sites. But to get to that point, we've needed to prove that our technology works and that we've got a product out there that people are interested in.”

But five years later, it's still not entirely clear if DNA-based matchmaking works or if it works the same for all people. Unsurprisingly, most of these studies involved primarily white participants, and trends may express themselves differently in more diverse groups of people.

Even more unsurprising, research involving same-sex couples and people from the LGBTQ community is scarce. I found only one study that tested whether mate selection for gay and lesbian participants was driven by smell. It suggested that the trend largely held up for gay men, but the results for lesbian women were “somewhat complicated.” We'll need a lot more research to say for sure.

Sexton concedes that genetic compatibility is just one element of many that lead to a loving relationship. But regardless of whether this tech works, should it even exist? How do we keep it from alienating LGBTQ folks, minorities, and people with genetic diseases? Should we even consider DNA when it comes to love? Let the science nerds figure it out, and maybe we'll copy their notes later. ■



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Cos Way of Life

How gaming marketing master Lisa Weeks turned weirdness (and wigs) into professional success.

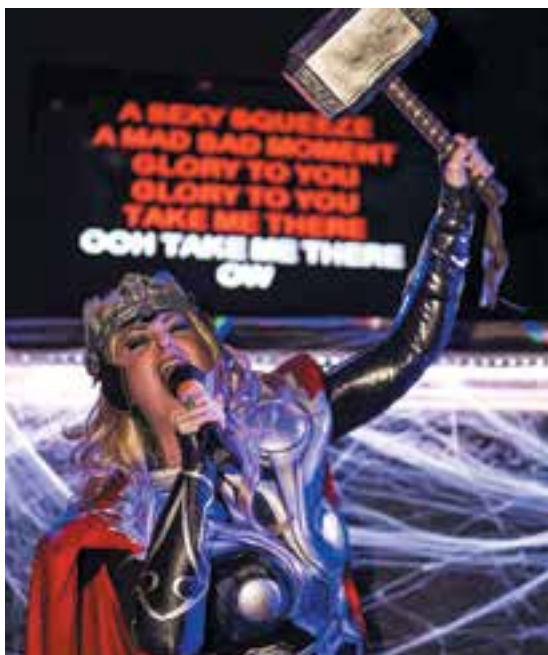
BY LEILANI POLK

Lisa Weeks is clad in a black catsuit-style outfit with a high-tech coat-of-arms-style logo on the back hyping her soon-to-be-debuted video-game company, Turbo-Play. She's also wearing knee-high platform boots with sound-activated LED meter displays and a pair of LED-lit glasses propped behind the bangs of her silvery wig. She is quite literally glowing.

Though she looks like a character from a sci-fi space opera when we meet, it's a typical Wednesday for Weeks—she's no more or less dressed, wigged, and tech-accessorized than usual. She wears costumes all the time, even in corporate settings. She owns more than 100 wigs.

She's also warm, effervescent, and completely natural in her weirdness—in fact, by leaning into

her geekiness, passion for costuming, and love of video games, she's made weirdness into a personal brand. In her 2013 TEDx-Seattle talk, "The Economy of Weird," she



COURTESY OF LISA WEEKS

Lisa Weeks, dressed as her "regular self" for the inauguration of Geekkaraoke at Club Contour.

them on the map for Seattle and then the West Coast. "Paving the way for making those relationships between game companies and people who need jobs, the developers themselves, was my specialty. I was basically connecting humans to other humans."

She did a brief stint at GeekWire, and she spent a few years as the chief marketing officer at Hashbang Games before becoming CMO of TurboPlay, "a revolutionary new video games marketplace that is by indies, for indies, and offers developers an unprecedented 90 percent revenue and an entire ecosystem of developer tools." She cofounded TurboPlay with CEO Vince McMullin and COO John Nguyen. They'll make their debut at the Game Developers Conference in San Francisco this month.

She's also organized the Seattle Game Developers meet-up since 2014. The group is for developers, designers, artists, and people from related disciplines to demo, share work, network, and even find work. She has helped it grow from 400 to more than 2,400 members.

And then there's Geekkaraoke at Club Contour in downtown Seattle, her ongoing karaoke night with geek themes that change weekly. Geekkaraoke celebrated five years in February and has been a surprising success, considering it's an extroverted activity aimed at a segment of the population that's traditionally pretty self-contained. "I've gotten feedback from people who have been coming for all of those five years, that they've actually gotten better at their jobs because they've been able to increase their self-confidence and get up in front of their team or talk in front of a group."

You can find her there on Monday nights, rallying the geeks, keeping the good times going—and more likely than not, dressed to the nines in celebration of whatever theme is happening that night. Pokémon? *Mad Max*? Chewbacchanalia? You just never know. ■

"If you do it well, if you do it authentically, then it will really resonate with people."

discussed how her persona has benefited the companies she's worked for: "Because you stand out, you're memorable. And especially if you do it well, if you do it authentically, not like it's some kind of contrived shtick, then it will really make an impression, it will advance the brand awareness, it will resonate with people, and it provides a talking point."

But, she says, if you're putting yourself out to the world like this, "you have to work twice as hard on the back end, and make sure that you show a hell of a lot of substance, because people are not going to take you seriously, they're going to make assumptions about you."

Weeks's first job in Seattle after relocating here from Montana in 1998 was at Nordstrom; she went from sales floor to corporate marketing and product development for the cosmetics division in a year. Five years later, she transitioned to the vendor side of things and worked with clients that included Disney and Xbox. That was in 2004, around the same time she started doing more serious cosplay, crafting elaborate costumes, making her own wigs and weaponry, and experimenting with her day wear.

She went on to help build up the brand at Filter Digital, a gaming recruiting agency and her first big video-game gig, putting

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THINGS  DO → *Geek Conventions*

Get Your Con On

Tips and tricks to make the most of your comic con.

BY NATHALIE GRAHAM

“Hey! Con virgins! Want a ribbon?” a woman in a booth yelled at me and my childhood best friend, Kyra.

We were embarrassed for being singled out, but even more embarrassed that she could see what we were so desperately trying to hide: This was our first con. Were we giving off a new-con smell? We slunk over to her. She welcomed us to San Diego Comic-Con and handed us two neon-pink ribbons that read “CON VIRGIN” in big black letters. We tucked them discreetly in our bags.

We quickly realized how magical—and exhausting—cons are. You’re among thousands of people who share the same unbridled enthusiasm you do. It’s crazy! But we crashed and burned in several different arenas—like naively waiting three hours in a miles-long line for the coveted *Game of Thrones* panel—and vowed to be better prepared next year.

I’ve been to numerous cons since then, big and small, and while I still haven’t learned how to con right, I’ve learned how to con *better*. Here are some tips.

1. PLAN AHEAD AND BE REALISTIC

I hate planning. I still haven’t figured out Google Calendar and I’m straddling the millennial/Gen Z generational line! But when you’re headed to a con, especially a bigger con, it pays to prep. You want to go to *Star Wars* Origami but that *Buffy* cast reunion you’ve been dying to see starts 10 minutes later, and it’s across the convention center? You’re going to have to prioritize. The con schedule is usually posted online weeks before the actual event. Find it, save it, and filter out your must-sees from your sure-why-nots. Also, check your con’s social-media pages religiously; there will likely be key updates posted there during the event.

It’s impossible to see everything. There will be heartbreak, giveaways you’ll miss, long lines that best you. Understand this now and be okay with it: You cannot do it all.

2. GIVE YOURSELF TIME TO WANDER

Take some time to explore the con floor—that’s where you can buy your figurines and



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your comics, where you can try out new video games or duke it out in a Magic: The Gathering competition or stroll through artist alley and get some prints for your mom since you don’t have the wall space anymore.

3. BRING SOME ESSENTIALS

Snacks! You’re going to be on your feet all day, and your only options for food will be whatever crap they sell on the convention floor or the Cheesecake Factory across the street. Nuts, dried fruit, power bars—bring stuff that stays in your system and keeps you from biting your friend’s head off when she won’t shut up about that one celebrity she’s dying to see.

Water! This is a given. I’ve seen people faint at cons. There are lots of bodies and lots of excitement. Lube up your system!

Deodorant! You’ll quickly discover many of your fellow con attendees are not habitually hygienic. Don’t be that guy. Roll on some Speed Stick before you go, and re-apply throughout the con as needed.

Cash! Ditch your card if you can and

bring a fixed amount of cash. It’s too easy to spend when all you have to do is swipe, especially when there are photo-ops and autographs and you know that just *one more* will guarantee you’ll hit it off with that actor, did you see how he smiled at you last time???

A back-up battery! ...and a fat data plan. Vying for service is tough in a crowded place. Plus, you’ll need to check social media and your con schedule regularly. You don’t want your phone to die. (Pro tip: If you’re planning on waiting in long lines, consider bringing a power strip to share with your line mates.)

4. CHOOSE SUPPORTIVE SHOES

I about shredded my heels wearing Converse high tops to my first con. If you’re cosplaying and can’t walk long distances in your costume shoes, consider bringing backups.

This is very much Con 101, and like anything else, you’ll learn best by doing. And there are plenty of cons coming up where you can practice—so have at it! ■

Upcoming Local Conventions & Expos

- CHIBI CHIBI CON 19** Evergreen State College, Sat April 6, 12–11 pm, free
- NORWESCON 42** DoubleTree Hotel, April 18–21, \$70
- SAKURA-CON** Washington State Convention & Trade Center, April 19–21, \$70/\$80
- CRYPTICON 2019** DoubleTree Hotel, May 3–5, \$20–\$310
- IFEST - INDIE GAME FESTIVAL** Seattle Center Armory, Sat May 4, 10:30 am–4 pm, free
- EVERFREE NORTHWEST** DoubleTree Hotel, May 17–19, \$35–\$75+

- MINEFAIRE** CenturyLink Field Event Center, May 18–19, 10 am–5 pm, \$32–\$92
- RENTON CITY RETRO GAMING EXPO** City of Renton Pavilion Event Center, May 25–26, 10 am–5 pm, \$10–\$45
- NORTHWEST PINBALL AND ARCADE SHOW** Greater Tacoma Convention & Trade Center, May 31–June 2, \$20–\$65
- THE SEATTLE RETRO GAMING EXPO** Fisher Pavilion, June 15–16, 10 am–5 pm, \$25–\$65
- WASHINGTON STATE SUMMER CON** Washington State Fair Events Center, June 15–16, \$30–\$250

- GO PLAY NW** Seattle University, July 5–7
- DRAGONFLIGHT** Hilton Bellevue Hotel, Aug 16–18
- PAX WEST** Washington State Convention & Trade Center, Aug 31–Sept 3, \$51
- JET CITY COMIC SHOW 2019** Greater Tacoma Convention & Trade Center, Oct 26–27, 10 am, \$10–\$20
- GEEKGIRLCON** Washington State Convention & Trade Center, Nov 16–17, \$25–\$40

Geeky Events This Fortnight

OFFICIAL EMERALD CITY COMIC CON EVENTS

Emerald City Comic Con
Washington State Convention & Trade Center, March 14–17, \$30–\$45

Celebrating 40 Years of Battlestar Galactica
ACT Theatre, Thurs March 14, 9:15 pm, \$20

ECCC and Jo Jo Stiletto Present: Guardians of Sexy
ACT Theatre, March 15–16, 7:30 pm, 10:15 pm, \$29/\$49

Kracklefest 9 - A Night Of Nerd Rock!
Hard Rock Cafe, Fri March 15, 8:30 pm, \$15/\$18

Star Trek: The Next 50 Years
ACT Theatre, Thurs March 14, 7:15 pm, \$20

COMICS

Colleen Frakes and Tatiana Gill Signing
Outsider Comics, Sat March 16, 4–6 pm, free

Long Con / Our Super Adventure Double-Signing!
Phoenix Comics & Games, Wed March 13, 5–7 pm, free

Magdalene Visaggio Signing
Outsider Comics, Thurs March 14, 8 pm, free

Peach MoMoKo Signing with Brian Thies & Agnes Garbowska
Comics Dungeon, Wed March 20, 1–8 pm, free

X-Plain the X-Men ECCC Meetup & Party!
Phoenix Comics & Games, Sat March 16, 8–10 pm, free

MUSIC

Fourth Annual Emerald City Comic Con Afterparty
SPiN, Sat March 16, 8 pm–1 am, \$10/\$20

Geekkaraoke
Club Contour, Mondays, 7 pm, free

JK POP! Comic-Con Edition
Kremwerk, Sat March 16, 10 pm, \$8/\$10

Pop Secret: Comic Con Edition
Q Nightclub, Fri March 15, 10 pm–2 am, \$10

The Wicked, the Divine, Bombshell ECCC After-Party
Fred Wildlife Refuge, Sat March 16, 8 pm–1 am

QUEER

Qomix: Queer Comicon Party
Timbre Room, Sat March 16, 10 pm–2 am, \$10

Queer Mixer
The Raygun Lounge, Fri March 15, 7:30–10 pm, free

PERFORMANCE

DC vs. Marvel: The Drag Show
Kremwerk, Sat March 16, 8 pm, \$12

Game Development: The Musical
West of Lenin, Mon March 18, 7 pm, free

Ms. Pak-Man: Mazed and Confused
Re-bar, March 14–30, Thurs–Sat, 8 pm, \$25–\$85

Nerd Rage: The Great Debates!
Rendezvous, Fri March 15, 7 pm, \$10/\$15

Star Wars: Attack of the Drag Clones
Kremwerk, Fri March 15, 7 pm, \$9

Strip for Initiative
Rendezvous, Sun March 17, 6:30 pm, \$20/\$40

Theatre TBD’s Third Friday Cabaret: Spock of Ages II: Cult Fiction!
Palace Theatre & Art Bar, Fri March 15, 8 pm, \$18

Women of Wakanda: A Variety Show Tribute to Black Panther
Timbre Room, Fri March 15, 8 pm, \$12

FOOD & DRINK

Hellboy Beer Release Party
The Pine Box, Fri March 15, 7–10 pm, free

Populuxe Retro Game Show Night
Populuxe Brewing, Sat March 23, 12–10 pm, free

OTHER CONS & EXPOS

PaizoCon
DoubleTree Hotel, March 24–27, \$25–\$75

Washington State Toy Show
Washington State Fair Events Center, Sat March 23, 9 am–4 pm, \$5/\$10

Vintage Computer Festival
Living Computers: Museum + Labs, March 23–24, 10 am–5 pm, \$18

GAMING & TRIVIA

Beer and Board Games
Blue Highway Games, Fri March 15, \$5

Broad City Trivia Hosted by Betty Wetter
Clock-Out Lounge, Tues March 19, 8:30 pm, \$5

Disney Trivia Seattle
Optimism Brewing, Wed March 20, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, \$5

Fourth Annual Night of Board Gaming for Good on Top of the World!
Columbia Tower Club, Thurs March 14, 5 pm, \$69–\$235

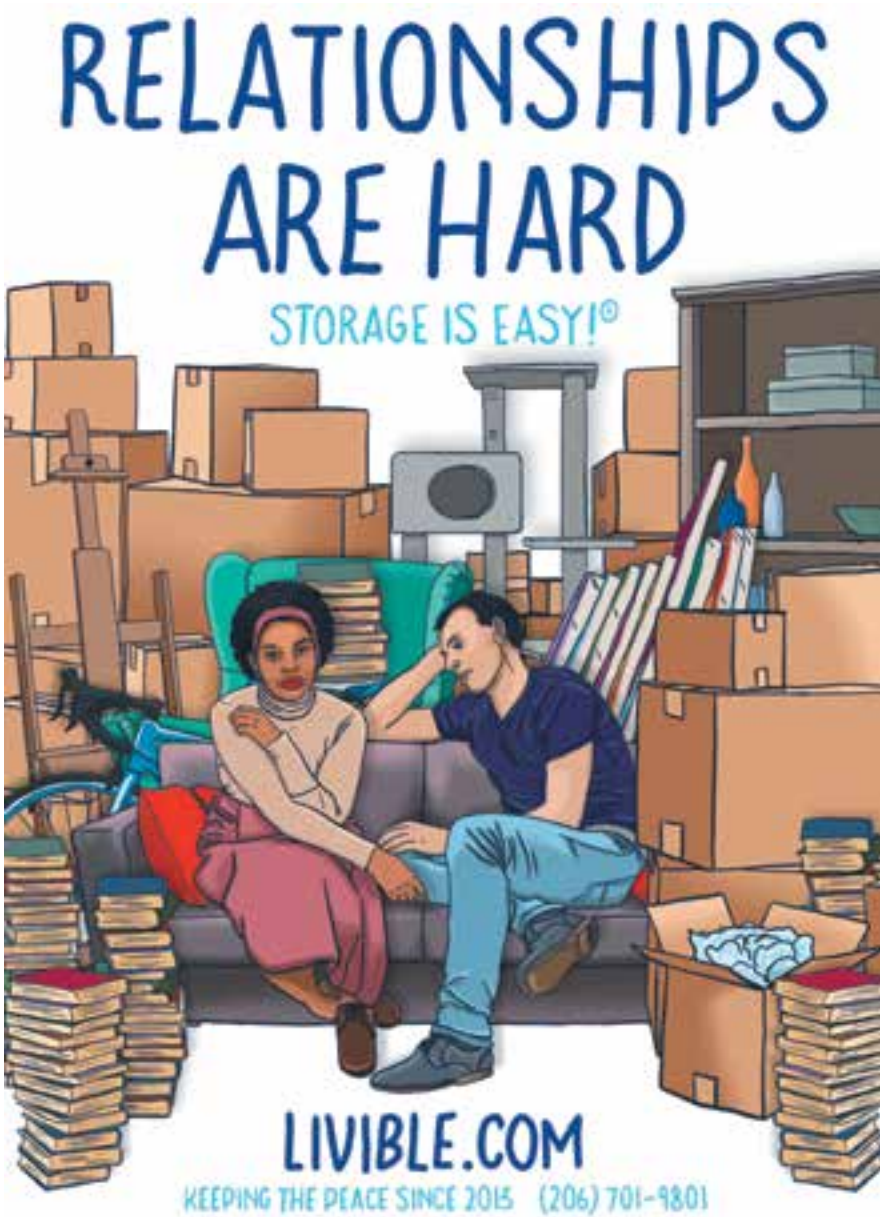
MovieCat Trivia Night!
Central Cinema, Wed March 27, 7 pm, \$6/\$8

Nostalgic Toys and Games Trivia Supporting SOWA
The Collective, Tues March 26, 7–9 pm, free

Board Gayme Night
The Raygun Lounge, Mon, 6:30 pm, free

Gayme Night
Unicorn, Tues, 8–11 pm, free

Rainbow Bingo South Park (Aunt Betty Malone)
South Park Senior Center, Sat March 16, 6 pm, \$20/\$25



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Free Will Astrology

BY ROB BREZSNY

March 13–19

ARIES (MARCH 21–APRIL 19): The coming weeks might be a good time to acquire a flamethrower. It would come in handy if you felt the urge to go to a beach and incinerate mementos from an ex-ally. It would also be useful if you wanted to burn stuff that reminds you of who you used to be and don't want to be anymore, or if you got in the mood to set ablaze symbols of questionable ideas you used to believe in but can't afford to believe in anymore. If you don't want to spend \$1,600 on a flamethrower, just close your eyes for 10 minutes and visualize yourself performing acts of creative destruction like those I mentioned.

TAURUS (APRIL 20–MAY 20): Taurus aphorist Olivia Dresher writes that she would like to be "a force of nature," but "not causing any suffering." The way I interpret her longing is that she wants to be wild, elemental, uninhibited, primal, raw, pure—all the while without inflicting any hurt or damage on herself or anyone else. In accordance with your astrological omens, Taurus, that's a state I encourage you to embody in the coming weeks. If you're feeling extra smart—which I suspect you will—you could go even further. You may be able to heal yourself and others with your wild, elemental, uninhibited, primal, raw, pure energy.

GEMINI (MAY 21–JUNE 20): In some major cities, the buttons you push at a crosswalk don't actually work to make the walk light turn green faster. The same is true about the "Close Door" buttons in many elevators. Pushing them doesn't have any effect on the door. Harvard psychologist Ellen Langer says these buttons are like placebos that give you "the illusion of control." I bring this phenomenon to your attention, Gemini, in hope of inspiring you to scout around for comparable things in your life. Is there any situation where you imagine you have power or influence, but probably don't? If so, now is an excellent time to find out—and remedy that problem.

CANCER (JUNE 21–JULY 22): Philip Boit was born and raised in Kenya, where it never snows except on the very top of Mount Kenya. Yet he represented his country in the cross-country skiing events at the Winter Olympics in 2002 and 2006. How did he do it? He trained up north in snowy Finland. Meanwhile, Kwame Nkrumah-Acheampong competed for Ghana in the slalom in the 2010 Winter Olympics. Since there was no snow in his homeland, he practiced his skills in the French Alps. These two are your role models for the coming months, Cancerian. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, you'll have the potential to achieve success in tasks and activities that may not seem like a natural fit.

LEO (JULY 23–AUG 22): In the process of casting for his movie *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, director David Fincher considered selecting A-list actress Scarlett Johansson to play the heroine. But ultimately he decided she was too sexy and radiant. He wanted a pale, thin, tougher-looking actress, whom he found in Rooney Mara. I suspect that in a somewhat similar way, you may be perceived as being too much *something* for a role you would actually perform quite well. But in my astrological opinion, you're not at all too much. In fact, you're just right. Is there anything you can do—with full integrity—to adjust how people see you and understand you without diluting your brightness and strength?

VIRGO (AUG 23–SEPT 22): In 1993, an English gardener named Eric Laves used his metal detector to look for a hammer that his farmer friend had lost in a field. Instead of the hammer, he found the unexpected: a buried box containing 15,234 old Roman silver and gold worth more than \$4 million today. I bring this to your attention, Virgo, because I suspect that you, too, will soon discover something different from what you're searching for. Like the treasure Laves located, it might even be more valuable than what you thought you wanted.

LIBRA (SEPT 23–OCT 22): "The role of the artist is exactly the same as the role of the lover," wrote author James Baldwin. "If I love you, I have to make you conscious of the things you don't see." To fully endorse that statement, I'd need to add two adverbs. My version would be: "The role of the artist is exactly the same as the role of the lover. If I love you, I have to kindly and compassionately make you conscious of the things you don't see." In accordance with current astrological omens, I recommend that you Libras enthusiastically adopt that mission during the coming weeks. With tenderness and care, help those you care about to become aware of what they've been missing—and ask for the same from them toward you.

SCORPIO (OCT 23–NOV 21): For thousands of generations, our early ancestors were able to get some of the food they needed through a practice known as persistence hunting. They usually couldn't run as fast as the animals they chased. But they had a distinct advantage: They could keep moving relentlessly until their prey grew exhausted. In part that's because they had far less hair than the animals, and thus could cool off better. I propose that we adopt this theme as a metaphor for your life in the coming weeks and months. You won't need to be extra fast or super ferocious or impossibly clever to get what you want. All you have to do is be persistent and dogged and disciplined.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 22–DEC 21): Womps'i'kuk Skeesucks Brooke is a Native American woman of the Mohegan tribe. According to her description of Mohegan naming traditions, and reported by author Elisabeth Pearson Waugaman, "Children receive names that are descriptive. They may be given new names at adolescence, and again as they go through life according to what their life experiences and accomplishments are." She concludes that names "change as the individual changes." If you have been thinking about transforming the way you express and present yourself, you might want to consider such a shift. This year will be a favorable time to at least add a new nickname or title. And I suspect you'll have maximum inspiration to do so in the coming weeks.

CAPRICORN (DEC 22–JAN 19): For many of us, smell is our most neglected sense. We see, hear, taste, and feel with vividness and eagerness, but allow our olfactory powers to go underused. In accordance with the astrological omens, I hope you will compensate for that dearth in the coming weeks. There is subtle information you can obtain—and in my opinion, need quite strongly—that will come your way only with the help of your nose. Trust the guidance provided by scent.

AQUARIUS (JAN 20–FEB 18): Essayist Nassim Nicholas Taleb says humans come in three types: fragile, robust, or antifragile. Those who are fragile work hard to shield themselves from life's messiness. The downside? They are deprived of experiences that might spur them to grow smarter. As for robust people, Taleb believes they are firm in the face of messiness. They remain who they are even when they're disrupted. The potential problem? They may be too strong to surrender to necessary transformations. If you're the third type, antifragile, you engage with the messiness and use it as motivation to become more creative and resilient. The downside? None. In accordance with the astrological omens, Aquarius, I urge you to adopt the antifragile approach in the coming weeks.

PISCES (FEB 19–MARCH 20): In 2014, NASA managed to place its MAVEN spacecraft into orbit around Mars. The cost of the mission was \$671 million. Soon thereafter, the Indian government put its own vehicle, the Mangalyaan, into orbit around the Red Planet. It spent \$74 million. As you plan your own big project, Pisces, I recommend you emulate the Mangalyaan rather than the MAVEN. I suspect you can do great things—maybe even your personal equivalent of sending a spacecraft to Mars—on a relatively modest budget.

Homework: Upon waking up for the next seven mornings, sing a song that fills you with feisty, glorious hope.

March 20–26

ARIES (MARCH 21–APRIL 19): During the coming weeks, everything that needs to happen will indeed happen only if you surprise yourself on a regular basis. So I hope you will place yourself in unpredictable situations where you won't be able to rely on well-rehearsed responses. I trust that you will regard innocence and curiosity and spontaneity as your superpowers. Your willingness to change your mind won't be a mark of weakness but rather a sign of strength.

TAURUS (APRIL 20–MAY 20): In the animated kids' film *Over the Hedge*, 10 talking animals come upon a massive, towering hedge they've never seen before. The friendly group consists of a skunk, a red squirrel, a box turtle, two opossums, and five porcupines. The hedge perplexes and mystifies them. It makes them nervous. There's nothing comparable to it in their previous experience. One of the porcupines says she would be less afraid of it if she just knew what it was called, whereupon the red squirrel suggests that from now on they refer to it as "Steve." After that, they all feel better. I recommend that you borrow their strategy in the coming weeks. If a Big Unknown arrives in your vicinity, dub it something like "Steve" or "Betty."

GEMINI (MAY 21–JUNE 20): I urge you to locate a metaphorical or very literal door that will give you access to a place that affords you more freedom and healing and support. Maybe you already know about the existence of this door—or maybe it's not yet on your radar. Here's advice from Clarissa Pinkola Estes that might help. "If you have a deep scar, that is a door," she writes. "If you have an old, old story, that is a door. If you love the sky and the water so much that you almost cannot bear it, that is a door. If you yearn for a deeper life, a full life, a sane life, that is a door."

CANCER (JUNE 21–JULY 22): Musician Carol Kaye is the most famous bass guitarist you've never heard of. Over the course of five decades, she has plied her soulful talents on more than 10,000 recordings, including gems by Frank Zappa, Stevie Wonder, Frank Sinatra, Simon & Garfunkel, and the Beach Boys. Twenty-eight-time Grammy winner Quincy Jones has testified that Kaye has written "some of the most beautiful themes I've ever heard in my life" and that she "could do anything and leave men in the dust." I trust this horoscope will expand the number of people who appreciate her. I also hope you'll be inspired to become more active in spreading the word about the gifts that you have to offer the world. It's high time to make sure that people know more of the beautiful truth about you.

LEO (JULY 23–FEB 22): "When you want happiness, what are you wanting?" asks aphorist Olivia Dresher. The repeat of an event that made you feel good in the past? A sweet adventure you've thought about but never actually experienced? Here's a third possibility. Maybe happiness is a state you could feel no matter what your circumstances are; maybe you could learn how to relax into life exactly as it is and feel glad about your destiny wherever it takes you. In my opinion, Leo, that third approach to happiness will be especially natural for you to foster in the coming weeks.

VIRGO (AUG 23–SEPT 22): There are old traditions in many cultures that pay special attention to the first brick or stone that is laid in the earth to initiate the construction of a future building. It's called a cornerstone or foundation stone. All further work to create the new structure refers back to this original building block and depends on it. I'm pleased to inform you that now is a favorable phase to put your own metaphorical cornerstone in place, Virgo. You're ready to begin erecting a structure or system that will serve you for years to come. Be sure you select the right place for it, as well as the best building materials.

LIBRA (SEPT 23–OCT 22): Born under the sign of Libra, Ivan Kharchenko (1918–1989) was a military officer and engineer for the Soviet Army. His specialty was disarming explosive devices before they detonated. Over the course of his career, he defused an estimated 50,000 bombs and mines. Let's make him your patron saint for the coming weeks. Why? Because I suspect you will be able to summon a metaphorical version of his power: an extraordinary capacity to keep volatile situations from blowing up. You'll be a virtuoso at waging peace and preventing strife.

SCORPIO (OCT 23–NOV 21): There was a time, less than a century ago, when pink was considered a masculine color and blue a feminine hue. In previous eras, many European men sported long hair, wore high heels, and favored clothes with floral patterns. Franklin D. Roosevelt, one of America's most prominent 20th-century presidents, sometimes wore skirts and feather-bedecked hats as a child. With these facts as your keystone, and in accordance with the astrological omens, I encourage you to experiment with your own gender expression in the coming weeks. It's prime time to have fun with the way you interpret what it means to be a man or a woman or any other gender you might consider yourself to be.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 22–DEC 21): According to estimates by population experts, about 109 billion humans have been born on planet Earth over the millennia. And yet I'm quite sure that not a single one of those other individuals has been anything like you. You are absolutely unique, an unmatched treasure, a one-of-a-kind creation with your own special blend of qualities. And in my prophetic view, you're ready to fully acknowledge and celebrate these facts on a higher octave than ever before. It's high time for you to own your deepest authenticity, to work with extra devotion to express your soul's code, to unabashedly claim your idiosyncratic genius.

CAPRICORN (DEC 22–JAN 19): We don't know as much about European history between the sixth and ninth centuries as we do about other eras. Compared to the times that preceded and followed it, cultural and literary energies were low. Fewer records were kept. Governments were weaker and commerce was less vigorous. But historians don't like to use the term "Dark Ages" to name that period because it brought many important developments and activities, such as improvements in farming techniques. So in some ways, "Lost Ages" might be a more apropos descriptor. Now let's turn our attention to a metaphorically comparable phase of your own past, Capricorn: an era that's a bit fuzzy in your memory, a phase about which your understanding is incomplete. I suspect that the coming weeks will be an excellent time to revisit that part of your life and see what new insights you can mine.

AQUARIUS (JAN 20–FEB 18): Why do so many American libraries ban certain books, ensuring that they're unavailable to local readers? The reasons may be because they feature profanity or include references to sex, drug use, the occult, atheism, and unusual political viewpoints. Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis* is one of the most frequently censored books. Others are Maya Angelou's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, *Beloved* by Toni Morrison, and *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini. In my astrological opinion, these are exactly the kinds of books you should especially seek out in the coming weeks. In fact, I suggest you focus on communing with art and ideas and influences that are controversial, provocative, and intriguing.

PISCES (FEB 19–MARCH 20): At the age of 97, Piscean cartoonist Al Jaffee is still creating new material for the satirical *Mad* magazine, where he has worked since 1964. There was one 63-year stretch when his comic stylings appeared in all but one of *Mad*'s monthly issues. I nominate him to be your role model during the next four weeks. It's a favorable time for you to access and express a high degree of tenacity, stamina, and consistency.

Homework: What's the thing you lost that should stay lost? What's the thing you lost that you should find? Testify at freewillastrology.com.



Blunt Talk

BY LESTER BLACK



JESSICA STEIN

Are these rolling papers sheathed in metal safe to smoke?

Gold-Wrapped Joints

The other day, we got an e-mail from the creators of Shine, joint rolling papers coated in 24 karat gold. This is apparently a product you buy if setting fire to hundred dollar bills has become boring to you. The papers sell for \$45 for a pack of six, meaning a single sheet of rolling paper costs \$7.50.

After a publicist sent *The Stranger* a box of free Shine papers, I rolled a joint full of top-shelf Hindu Kush. "Is that real gold?" people would ask. When I explained that it was in fact a joint encased in a metallic sheath of 24-karat gold, they inevitably asked: "Is that safe to smoke?"

Shine's website doesn't offer much in the way of reassurance. They defend their product by saying, "There is no such thing as healthy smoking." Yikes.

Shine goes on to say that most of the joint's gold goes into your ashtray instead of your lungs. They also cite a 2011 study that forced rats to inhale tiny particles of gold six hours a day, five days a week, for 90 days. The rats in this study didn't get sick. The creators of Shine point to this as evidence of their product's safety.

Bruce Kelman, a toxicologist based in Redmond who was an author on that rat study, told me that gold probably doesn't make smoking joints more dangerous, but he still feels it was a "misuse of the study" to say that it demonstrates gold-wrapped joints are innocuous.

"The bottom line here is that compared to the THC and inhaling the combustion products, I don't think the gold really adds any additional significant risk," Kelman said. "But to claim that something is safe because of this one animal study just really misrepresents this science."

To be fair, Shine didn't claim their product was safe, just that it probably wasn't *that* harmful. If gold doesn't add any additional

significant risk, does that mean Kelman himself would smoke it? No. "Frankly, knowing what I know as a toxicologist, I wouldn't inhale a combustion product regardless of whether there is gold in it or not," he said.

I thought deeply about Kelman's anti-smoking message while I smoked my way through a joint wrapped in gold that night. Two-thirds of the way through, I decided that smoking gold-wrapped joints was some dumb bullshit. If nothing else, wrapping pot in gold makes great weed taste terrible.

These gold joints turned the flavor of Platinum Alien OG (a strain that usually tastes like pine and lemon) into a chemical off-flavor. They turned Acapulco Gold (a strain internationally famous for its exquisite earthy and fruity flavor) into the forgettable taste of

Other issues aside, wrapping pot in gold makes great weed taste terrible.

cardboard. As for that gold joint full of Puffin's Hindu Kush, I haven't even smoked it yet. I am considering unrolling it and putting the flower into a product that won't taste terrible.

Shine's rolling papers aren't about enjoying luxurious strains of cannabis or even getting high. They are all about the appearance of luxury. Rapper 2 Chainz called it "the caviar of joints." This product's conceptual birthplace is near the nexus of Instagram and the ultra wealthy.

Shine is essentially the Fyre Festival of joints: flashy and alluring from afar, but the more you learn, the less appealing it becomes.

When 2 Chainz reviewed the product, he said that it "was almost so fancy, you didn't want to smoke it." Which is more accurate than the trap rapper probably knew. Because while these papers certainly look fancy, you don't actually want to smoke them. ■

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Savage Love

BY DAN SAVAGE

The Sins of the Grandfather

My grandfather was a pillar of the community and beloved by his family. He was also sexually abusive. He died when I was a child. I remember only one incident happening to me—during a cuddle session, he encouraged me to put my mouth on his penis, and then told me to let it be our little secret. I heard rumors as an adult that he molested other kids in the neighborhood. He also had a sexual relationship with my mother. She says nothing happened as a child. But as an adult, he started telling her he loved her in a romantic way. He told her he wanted to take nude Polaroids of her, and she let him. And she loved him—she and her sisters all pretty much idolized him. My one aunt knew (she said nothing happened to her), and I asked her how she reconciled that. She said she compartmentalized it—she thought he was a wonderful father and didn't really think about the other stuff. I did lots of therapy in the late 1980s and early '90s. I read books, I journaled, I talked to my mom and tried to understand what she experienced. And I moved on as much as anyone could. So now it's 2019 and I'm almost 50. My mom just moved into a nursing home, and while cleaning out her drawers, I found the Polaroids my grandfather took of her. I know it was him because he is in some of them, taken into a mirror as she goes down on him. They were taken over a period of years. She had led me to believe he never really did anything sexual with her besides taking photos. But he did. And here's the thing, Dan: In the photos, she looks happy. I know she was probably acting, because that's what he wanted from her. But it just makes me question my assumptions. Was it terrible abuse or forbidden love? Both? What am I looking at? What would I prefer—that she enjoyed it or that she didn't? She kept the photos. Were they fond memories? I know she loved him. She kind of fell apart when he died. Was he a fucking manipulator who had a gift for making his victims feel loved and special as he exploited them for his own selfish needs? I don't know if I'm going to bring this up with my mom. She's old and sick, and I dragged her through these types of conversations in my 20s. So I'm writing you. This is so far out of most people's experience, and I want someone who has heard more sexual secrets than probably anyone else in the world to tell me what he thinks.

Whirlwind Of Emotions

I think you should sit down and watch all four hours of *Leaving Neverland*, the new HBO documentary by British filmmaker Dan Reed. It focuses on the experiences of Wade Robson and James Safechuck, two now-adult men who were sexually abused by pop star Michael Jackson when they were boys. Allegedly. It's an important film to watch, WOE, but it's not an easy one to watch, as it includes graphic descriptions of the sexual abuse both men claim to have suffered as boys.

The second most disturbing part of the film after the graphic descriptions of child rape—or the third most disturbing part after the credulity/culpability of Robson's and Safechuck's parents—may be what the men have to say about Jackson. Both describe their abuser in romantic terms. They both say they loved Jackson. And they both remain deeply conflicted about their feelings for Jackson then and their feelings for him now. It was their affection for Jackson—their desire to protect him and to safeguard what Jackson



JOE NEWTON

convinced both of them was a secret and a bond they shared—that led both men to lie to law-enforcement officials when Jackson was accused of sexually abusing different boys.

You should also listen to Reed's interview on *The Gist*, Mike Pesca's terrific daily podcast. Reading your letter the morning after I watched *Leaving Neverland* reminded me of something Reed said to Pesca: "What the film is about is the reckoning. It's two families coming to terms with what happened to their sons. And a big part of understanding that, you know—so why the silence? Why did the sons keep silent for so long? Why did they keep the secret? And the key really is to be able to explain why Wade gave false witness and perjured himself on the witness stand. And the reason for that, of course, has to do with how survivors of sexual abuse experience that. And how they keep a secret and how they sometimes form deep attachments with the abuser and how that attachment persists into adult life."

Your mother, like Robson and Safechuck, lied to protect her abuser, a man who abused her and abused you and probably many others. She may have held on to those photos for the same reason Robson and Safechuck say they defended Jackson: She loved her father, and she was so damaged by what he did to her—she had been so expertly groomed by her abuser—that she felt "loved" and "special" in the same way that Jackson's alleged abuse once made Robson and Safechuck feel loved and special. So as horrifying as it is to contemplate, WOE, your mother may have

held on to those photos because they do represent what are, for her, "fond memories." And while it would be a comfort to think she held on to those photos as proof for family members who doubted her story if she ever decided to tell the truth, her past defenses of her father work against that explanation.

Leaving Neverland demonstrates that sexual abuse plants a ticking time bomb inside a person—shit, sorry, no passive language. *Leaving Neverland* demonstrates that sexual predators like your grandfather and like Jackson—fucking manipulators with a gift for making their victims feel loved and special—plant ticking time bombs in their victims. Even if a victim doesn't initially experience their abuse as a violation and as violence, WOE, a reckoning almost inevitably comes. One day, the full horror of what was done to them snaps into focus. These reckonings can shatter lives, relationships, and souls.

It doesn't sound like your mother ever had her reckoning—that day never came for her—and so she never came to grips with what was done to her and, tragically, what was done to you. And your aunt wasn't the only member of your family who "didn't really think about the other stuff." Just as denial and compartmentalization enabled Jackson and facilitated his crimes (and allowed the world to enjoy Jackson's music despite what was staring us all in the face), denial and compartmentalization allowed your "pillar of the community" grandfather to rape his daughter, his granddaughter, and scores of other children. Like Robson and Safechuck, WOE, you have a right to be angry with the adults in your family who failed to protect you from a known predator. That some of them were also his victims provides context, but it does not exonerate them.

I'm glad your grandfather died when you were young. It's tempting to wish he'd never been born, WOE, but then you would never have been born, and I'm glad you're here. I'm particularly glad you're *there*, right now, embedded in your damaged and damaging family. By telling the truth, you're shattering the silence that allowed an abuser to groom and prey on children across multiple generations of your family. Your grandfather can't victimize anyone else, WOE, but by speaking up—by refusing to look the other way—you've made it harder for other predators to get away with what your grandfather did.

P.S. There's a moment in the credits for *Leaving Neverland* that I think you might want to replicate. It involves some things one of Jackson's alleged victims saved and a fire pit. You'll know what I mean when you see it. ■

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THE BIG & THE OBVIOUS

Saint Patrick's Day

More than just a time to drink beer and wear your green clothes, Saint Patrick's Day (Sun March 17) is a chance to experience the rich history of Irish culture. As such, celebrations in Seattle go beyond pub crawls (although those are still happening in abundance). This year, opt for the Irish Heritage Club's **Irish Week**, which brings traditions like the **Irish Festival** at Seattle Center (March 16–17) and the downtown **St. Patrick's Day Parade** (Sat March 16). If you're looking to party, head to the Tacoma Dome's EDM dance party **Lucky** (Sat March 16) or Kells Irish Restaurant & Pub's 36th annual **St. Patrick's Day Irish Festival** (March 13–17), complete with multiple live music stages and plenty of beer.

Emerald City Comic Con

Seattle hosts the biggest and best comics convention in the Northwest (to which we imagine the internet would say: Weird flex but OK). Even if you're not attending Emerald City Comic Con (March 14–17), watching the attendees heading into the Washington State Convention Center in their cosplay costumes is an event in itself. Those who do attend can look forward to four days of panels, meet-ups, fun parties, and tons of guests hanging out in the artist alley, including *Black Panther* World of Wakanda's Afua Richardson, *Agents of Realm*'s Mildred Louis, and *Star Wars*' Katie Cook. Like always, there are also many Comic Con–related events that don't require a badge,

such as **Star Trek: The Next 50 Years** with the host of the *Inglorious Treks* podcast at ACT Theatre (Thurs March 14) and **DC vs. Marvel: The Drag Show** at Kremwerk (Sat March 16). For more geeky things to do, flip to page 25. This is the Geek Issue, after all.

Celebrate Spring

Don't be fooled by the cold weather—spring officially starts on March 20, and the new season brings events that are sure to leave you in sunny spirits. If the longer days have you itching for baseball to return, head to the **Seattle Mariners FanFest** at T-Mobile Park (March 23–24), where you can watch a team workout, run around the bases, and generally get excited for the home opening game against the Red Sox on March 28. (Can't wait that long? There are also pre-season exhibition games against the Padres on March 25 and 26). For the cultural route, celebrate Holi (March 20–21), the Hindu festival of color, at Nectar's annual **Holi Hai** dance party (Sat March 16) or the annual Child Rights & You fundraiser **CRY Seattle Holi** in Bellevue Downtown Park (Sat March 23). There's also the Persian New Year (Thurs March 21), which you can fete at events like Seattle City Hall's **Nowruz Celebration** (Sun March 17), and the food- and costume-filled Jewish holiday Purim (March 20–21), which you can experience through political theater and hamantasch at Columbia City Theater's **Purim: From the Walled City** (Thurs March 21).

Indigenous Art Shows

On March 23, a new exhibition space devoted to communities of color will open in King Street Station with a show curated by Stranger Genius Award winner Tracy Rector, Asia Tail, and Satpreet Kahlon. The exhibition, which will last until August 3, will feature pieces by indigenous artists as part of *yahawb*, a year-long, multicity creative project that showcases Native artistic talent in many venues. Come to the **opening party** on March 23 for storytelling, performances, and music. March also marks the beginning of a series of *yahawb* indigenous Latinx shows at Vermillion, starting with **Regeneración/Rebirth** (March 14–April 6), which will open during Capitol Hill Art Walk and will host **Bloom: Indigenous People's Dance Party** on Friday, March 15. For more by Native artists, check out work by Asia Tail, Paige Pettibon, Lisa Fruichantie, and others in **Women's Work** at Columbia City Gallery (through March 31).

Pi Day

Celebrate everyone's favorite mathematical constant, π , by engulfing some flaky pastry-topped desserts on 3.14. Need some ideas? At Conor Byrne's **fundraiser**, sample plenty of pies from professional and amateur pastry chefs alike and enter a raffle to benefit the Vera Project. Want to flaunt your own baking skills? Try entering your intricately latticed creations in a contest at **The Works** (or just be a judge so you can do your best

Mary Berry impression while tasting all the entries). And should you wish to prove just how fast you can inhale an entire pie while a gathering of onlookers watches, enter Occidental Square's **Pi Day Pie Eating Contest** for a shot at a gift card to London Plane. Got a pie craving that won't be satisfied in just one day? **A la Mode Pies** in Phinney Ridge and West Seattle, **Pie** in Fremont, **Pie Bar** in Capitol Hill and Ballard, and Tom Douglas's downtown **Dahlia Bakery** are some of our favorite year-round pie spots. ■

Short List

Big Climb Seattle
Columbia Center, Sun
March 24, \$70

Monster Energy Supercross
CenturyLink Field, Sat
March 23, 6:30 pm,
\$15–\$105

Monster Jam
CenturyLink Field, Sat
March 16, 7 pm, \$20–\$125

State Park Free Days
Various locations, Tues
March 19, free

Wagner Education Center Grand Opening
Center for Wooden Boats,
March 23–24, 10 am–
5 pm, free

Early Warnings

SKAGIT VALLEY TULIP FESTIVAL Various locations,
April 1–30, free

PRINCE OPENING PARTY Museum of Pop Culture
(MoPOP), Fri April 5, 7–11 pm, \$27/\$30

THE DAFFODIL FESTIVAL Various locations across
Pierce County, April 6–May 6, free

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Art That Looks Like Planets

Taiji Miyasaka explores light and space in three spheres currently orbiting at MadArt.

BY JASMYNE KEIMIG

When you enter MadArt, you unwittingly enter a planetary system. The gallery is currently occupied by three spheres of vastly different sizes that all seem to be frozen in mid-orbit around each other. It's easy for you, a puny human, to get sucked into each orb's gravitational pull. And you should give in.

All three spheres were created by Taiji Miyasaka, an architecture professor at Washington State University's School of Design + Construction, as part of his show at MadArt, *Circum-ambience*. Miyasaka, who

TAIJI MIYASAKA:
CIRCUM-AMBIENCE
MadArt
Through March 23

emphasized to me that he's not an artist but an architect (and the distinction seems important), is most

interested in the complexity of how light moves—*exists*—in a space.

The smallest sphere, *Wild Flower*, is in the rear of the gallery. Composed of yellow chicken wire layered over itself to create the shape, it's small enough to be suspended in the air so visitors can see all of its sides. The second largest sphere, *Debris*, is made of parts salvaged from an early-1900s-era Seattle craftsman home and pieced together like a collage.

The 13-foot-tall, Death Star-evoking *Earthen Light* is the showstopper. The



MADART STUDIO

The South Lake Union gallery has a Death Star-like object you can enter.

sphere is largely made of clay and wood, inspired by Japanese teahouses and sheds that use 1,300-year-old traditional Japanese techniques of earthen wall construction.

Miyasaka received assistance from master plasterer Tetsuya Hagino, architect Yasuhiro Uchida, and assistant plasterer Eiko Inohara, who flew in from Japan to assist him in plastering the inside of the sphere to create the intended light conditions for visitors.

As I slipped off my shoes and ungracefully

climbed into the small square opening of *Earthen Light*, I felt like I was being reverse-birthing back into my mother's womb. A womb that smelled like other people's feet.

The first thing you feel once inside is laminated wood. The second, darkness. The third, a stranger's limb. The voice of another gallery-goer guided me to an empty cushion as I awkwardly maneuvered myself and my purse through the void. As I settled in, my eyes slowly adjusted—and the space

became a hazy shade of brown. I looked up and noticed that a slice near the top of the sphere had been removed to allow in a ring of soft natural light that seemed to spray down on us.

Everyone inside sat with their butts on the edge of the circle, backs leaning on the plaster walls, legs crisscrossed underneath them. Someone let out a soft coo—to test the acoustics of the space—and it boomeranged back to them. We were in a sphere, after all.

The space begs meditation—that sliver of light was bright enough that I could see many people had their eyes closed. At the same time, being inside all that wood, clay, and plaster made me feel like I was in my own little world where no one could disturb me. Miyasaka had elevated ordinary material into something extraordinary. I wish they had one of these things at every gallery opening.

Though his previous work was more focused on the contrast between light and shadow, with this show, Miyasaka is thinking about light differently. “Now I'm more interested in ambient light, like being surrounded by light,” he told me in January. “I'm trying to understand the nature of light more. Architects always talk about light and shadow, but we are always surrounded by light.” I would add to that mud and hay and wood and clay. ■

Top Picks

MARCH 14–APRIL 7



COURTESY OF ARTIST

Veronica Mortellaro: 'New and Recent Work'

Indifference and beauty can be a terrifying combination. I think, as a society, beautiful things are allowed to exist in two ways: with arrogance or with complete innocence. Beauty any other way falls into the uncanny valley—recognizable, but a

bit off. Veronica Mortellaro's stony, beautiful figures are frightening in that their beauty is something accepted and not to be dwelled on any further. The medium she uses, watercolor, makes them feel so fragile, so permeable, that you halfway hope they'll manage to soak into you. (*Ghost Gallery*, Tues–Sun, free.) JASMYNE KEIMIG

CLOSING SAT MARCH 30

Shigeki Tomura: 'Retrospective'

It's almost hard to believe that Shigeki Tomura's prints aren't photographs. Or some sort of physical representation of a feeling of being in a place. But they're neither photos nor feelings. The drawings, watercolors, and engravings of nature by the Japanese artist really capture the essence of what it's like to bear witness to a ripple of water across a lake, the shade provided by a dense crop of trees, snow on a field. Davidson Galleries will be showing a retrospective looking back at Tomura's career, including work from the late 1980s all the way to the present. (*Davidson Galleries*, Tues–Sat, free.) JASMYNE KEIMIG

CLOSING WED APRIL 3

Bette Burgoyne: 'Drawings'

Bette Burgoyne's drawings are delightfully fungal—they look like the underside of a mushroom, the

living organisms you encounter on dewy hikes through the forest, what grows on chicken pad that you've accidentally left in the fridge for two months. But there's also something a bit brain-like about them, like you're looking at the folds of your own cerebrum. Perhaps that's what makes her soft-hued creations so compelling—it's the basest, most biological self recognizing self. Give your brain what it deserves: a reflection. (*Zeitgeist*, daily, free.) JASMYNE KEIMIG

CLOSING SAT APRIL 6

Chelsea Ryoko Wong: 'Maximalist in Motion'

San Francisco-based artist Chelsea Ryoko Wong is interested in urban culture. Streets, crowds, sidewalks outside of yoga studios, supermarkets, parks. Using vibrant hues and mediums like gouache, watercolor, and colored pencil, Wong brings these diverse scenes to life. There's a text element to her work as well, with her figures wearing clothing that says things like “WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE SEXY,” “DRIVIN' A JAGUAR SEDAN,” or “LOST FLAMENCO DANCER.” In a time when humanity seems to be more at odds with itself than ever (though, if I'm being real, humanity has always been at odds with itself), Wong's work is like a cloud break on a warm day. It reminds you that we are all part of a community and

we really should look out for one another. (*ZINC contemporary*, Thurs–Sat, free.) JASMYNE KEIMIG

MORE

StrangerThingsToDo.com

Short List

MUSEUMS

Luminaries 2016
Museum of Northwest Art, daily, free, through March 24

Polaroids: Personal, Private, Painterly
Bellevue Arts Museum, Wed–Sun, \$15, through March 24

GALLERIES

Cameron Anne Mason: Field
Foster/White Gallery, Tues–Sat, free, through March 23

Dori Hana Scherer: Never Eat Shredded Wheat

Glass Box Gallery, Thurs–Sat, free, through March 17

Made with Love & Anxiety

Push/Pull, daily, free, through March 19

yəhaw

King Street Station, March 23–Aug 3, daily, free

ART EVENTS

Capitol Hill Art Walk

Capitol Hill, Thurs March 14, 5–8 pm, free

Scream for Queer Art!

Scream Seattle, Thurs March 14, 6–10 pm, free

Early Warnings

REMIX Seattle Art Museum, Fri March 29, 8 pm–12 am, \$30

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[BY KYLE ABRAHAM]

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THINGS DO → Performance

Revitalizing *Romeo + Juliet*

ACT updates Shakespeare's loveliest tale of woe with deaf actors, new jokes, and chain-link fences.

BY RICH SMITH



ROSEMARY DAI ROSS

Joshua Castille and Gabriella O'Fallon as the titular star-crossed lovers.

In ACT's production of *Romeo + Juliet*, Shakespeare's loveliest tale of woe, Romeo meets Juliet while she's doing the electric slide. I nearly stood up and walked out of the theater. The electric slide? Really, director John Langs?

But then I realized that I was failing to appreciate one of the play's lessons: Love finds you wherever you are, whatever you're doing. Who was I to paternalistically impose my judgment on a dance beloved by high schoolers? Anyway, the dance is the least important detail in this otherwise thrilling production.

Langs cast deaf actors to play Romeo and Friar Lawrence, and he incorporated American Sign Language into the script. Romeo, played by Joshua Castille, signs to other characters and they sign back. Sometimes an interpreter serves as interlocutor. Other times, a group of actors voices Romeo's lines, popcorn-reading style. Castille also yells out lines during moments of emotional stress, which is enormously affecting.

Working with sign master and ASL translator Ellie Savidge, Langs also added scenes, namely one where Juliet learns to sign a few key phrases in ASL. Langs and Savidge also added jokes to acknowledge Romeo's deafness. At one point, Benvolio, played by Chip Sherman, shouts at a distance for Romeo's attention. In response, Mercutio, played by Darragh Kennan, gives him an incredulous look and simply says, "He's deaf." The crowd laughed.

All of this was more than a victory for an underrepresented community in theater. Having other actors literally voice Romeo's lines while he signs embodies the central

theme of the universality of love. It also compounds the tragedy of Romeo's death. Watching him die is like watching the whole town die.

The production design is all over the place. Handguns and rapiers. Moody pink and purple lights. Costumes ripped straight out of Michael Jackson's *Thriller*. Music sourced from the mid-aughts. But everything more or less reads "contemporary street scene in a police state." The coolest thing is actors balletically wheeling three massive chain-link fences around the stage, symbolizing the many kinds of separation in the play.

Castille plays Romeo as a frantic, flailing, emo teen, which is exactly what you want to see. His striking stare melts into a softly amorous gaze every time he looks at Juliet.

Howie Seago plays Friar Lawrence as a calm, cool, in-control father figure to Romeo, providing a welcome anchor of sanity in an otherwise hectic world.

Gabriella O'Fallon, who plays Juliet, is now officially a rising star in Seattle theater; her portrayal ought to add lift and luminosity to her career. You can play Juliet about a hundred different ways. O'Fallon strikes a 70/30 split between peppy student-council president and inconsolable sad girl. Her incredible vocal range allows her to sink into deeper, smokier, more adult tones, but also to pop up into the bright registers of teen innocence. She perfectly expresses Juliet's not-a-girl-not-yet-a-woman-ness, to loosely quote poet Britney Spears.

Of all the actors, Reginald A. Jackson has the greatest command of Shakespeare's language. Jackson turns in the most hilarious Lord Capulet I've ever seen, and he steals the show whenever he's onstage. ■

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AMBER TAMBLYN

March 14, 7:30 pm, \$5
Rainier Arts Center
Coming of age in a time of
rage and revolution.

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March 16, 11 am and 1 pm
Free-\$5
Westside School
Sharing songs that celebrate
the great outdoors.

13th ANNUAL URBAN POVERTY FORUM

March 17, 1:00 pm, Free
Hugo House
A focus on the relationship
between militarism abroad
and militarism at the U.S.
border as two manifesta-
tions of a moral crisis.

EAST OF THE RIVER

March 17, 2:30 pm and
7:30pm, \$30-\$45
Langston Hughes
Performing Arts Institute
Woodwind virtuosos Nina
Stern and Daphna Mor
weave together the rich
musical traditions of the
Sephardic diaspora.

PEDRITO MARTINEZ GROUP

March 18, 7:30 pm, \$15-\$20
Broadway Performance Hall
Pushing the boundaries of
Afro-Cuban percussion.

FRANS DE WAAL

March 19, 7:30 pm, \$5
Seattle First Baptist Church
Animal emotions and what
they tell us about ourselves.

MICHAEL STRAUS

March 19, 7:30 pm, \$5
The Summit on Pike
A compelling peak into the
art of translation - from the
poetry of Pablo Neruda to
the Book of Revelation.



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THINGS TO DO → Performance

Top Picks

MARCH 15-24

'Director's Choice'

Pacific Northwest Ballet artistic director Peter Boal will give us what we've been waiting for all year: a compelling collection of contemporary ballets that push boundaries and make the form feel alive again. This year, he's presenting world premieres from American choreographers Robyn Mineko Williams and Matthew Neenan, plus Justin Peck's *In the Countenance of Kings*. My prediction is the new pieces will be romantic, abstract, and slightly nostalgic. Then Peck's piece, enlivened by Sufjan Stevens's swirling, sylvan score, will pull us out of the past and ready us for a newly dawning spring. (McCaw Hall, \$37-\$189.)

RICH SMITH

MARCH 15-APRIL 28

'A Doll's House, Part 2'

Nora, in Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*, is arguably one of the most famous female roles in 19th-century theater. Every leading ingenue has had her turn playing the "little lark"—even Seattle's Cherdonna Shinatra recently took on the role. But the ending of the play is famously up for interpretation, and Tony Award nominee Lucas Hnath's cheekily-titled *A Doll's House, Part 2* takes on the challenge of picking up where Ibsen left off. It's funny, smart, and maybe the best old play to come out of the 2010s. (Seattle Repertory Theatre, \$37-\$67.)

CHASE BURNS

MARCH 21-23

Ali Siddiq

Houston comic Ali Siddiq spent six years in prison for cocaine possession. There, he honed his comedy chops and storytelling skills before, uh, a captive audience, so you know he's hungry and grateful every time he grips a mic on the outside. As a black man, Siddiq has accumulated a trove of humorous observations about the foibles of white people—how they excel at complaining, how they deal with crying babies on flights, their exuberant love of trail mix. He's also constructed sidesplitting tales about being high on mushrooms and his time behind bars. His story is as inspirational as his bits are funny. (Parlor Live Comedy Club, Bellevue, \$25/\$30.)

DAVE SEGAL

SAT MARCH 23



ROBYN VON SWANK

Maria Bamford

Maria Bamford is a singular force in stand-up comedy. You can sense she's striving mightily to maintain a serene, reasonable facade, but her

mercurial thoughts and the world's ridiculousness—from mundane to profound—keep busting through the restraints. Hilarious observations and impersonations gush forth, often through gritted teeth. Bamford's stream of consciousness swerves in unexpected directions and often gets uncomfortably personal and realer than almost anyone who's spoken into a mic onstage. Although her act sometimes resembles the late Robin Williams's, Bamford's delivery is calmer—and more unnerving. How she alchemizes her grave mental-health issues into comedy gold is a miraculous feat. (Moore Theatre, 8 pm, \$25-\$30.)

DAVE SEGAL

CLOSING SAT MARCH 30

'Caught'

I'd count Christopher Chen's *Caught* as one of the four smartest/powerful/provocative straight plays I saw in 2016. The play is meta-theatrical, but in a meaningful way—less of a self-flagellating/self-congratulatory annoying ouroboros kind of thing and more of a flower blooming out of another flower kind of thing. It's about Western responses to Chinese dissident art. Sort of. It's also about relative pain. It's also about how the truth is a collaborative fiction, and about how nobody can really know anyone else. Importantly, it's about an hour and a half long, tops. This remount is presented by Intiman and directed by Desdemona Chiang. Go see it. (12th Avenue Arts, \$35/\$50.)

RICH SMITH

MORE

StrangerThingsToDo.com

Short List

The Big Queer Talent Show

Vera Project, Thurs
March 14, 7 pm, free

Bonbon

Can Can, Wed-Sun,
7 pm, 9:30 pm, \$40-\$100,
through April 21

Cats!

Paramount Theatre,
March 26-31, \$100+

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

Village Theatre, March
14-April 21, Wed-Sun,
\$32-\$74

Intersections Festival

Youngstown Cultural Arts
Center, March 21-24, \$12

John

ArtsWest, March 14-
April 7, \$20-\$42

Marie, Dancing Still: A New Musical

The 5th Avenue Theatre,
March 22-April 14,
\$29-\$145

Moisture Festival

Various locations,
March 14-April 7,
\$22-\$35

Ms. Pak-Man: Mazed and Confused

Re-bar, March 14-30,
Thurs-Sat, 8 pm,
\$25-\$85

Outstanding: Queer Comic Competition (Semi-finals)

Timbre Room, Tues
March 19, 7:30 pm, \$10

Skeleton Flower

Erickson Theatre Off
Broadway, \$25, through
March 17

Tiffany Haddish:

#SheReady Tour
Paramount Theatre, Thurs
March 21, 7 pm, \$50-\$150

Uncanny Comedy Festival Presents Hannibal Buress

ShoWare Center, Sat
March 23, 8 pm, \$35-\$90

Women of Wakanda: A Variety Show Tribute to Black Panther


Timbre Room, Fri March
15, 8 pm, \$12

Early Warnings

ADAM CONOVER: MIND PARASITES LIVE! Showbox Sodo, Sat March 30, 8 pm, \$38-\$75

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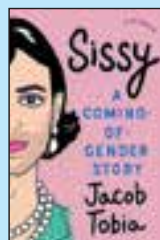
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Friday, March 15 at 7 p.m.



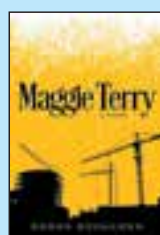
JACOB TOBIA

Sissy: A Coming of Gender Story Putnam

"Genderqueer and nonbinary voices are too often silenced in mainstream conversations about gender. It's why we need writers like Jacob Tobia, who offer us more inclusive visions and provide readers living beyond the binary reflections of themselves."

--Janet Mock

Wednesday, March 20 at 7 p.m.



SARAH SCHULMAN

Maggie Terry Feminist Press

"Clear-eyed and beautifully written, Maggie Terry is classic Schulman. She flenses and dissects the human condition, weighs every organ--how we connect, what forms the beating heart of a community--then magically breathes life back into the husk and helps it rise, reborn."

--Nicola Griffith

Wednesday, March 27 at 7 p.m.

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THINGS TO DO → Books & Talks

Letters to Danielle Steel

Patty Gone's incredible chapbook intersperses letters to the famous romance novelist with analysis, research, and reflection.

BY RICH SMITH

To the outside observer, mainstream romance novels are a kind of softcore porn consumed by an extremely dedicated, mostly female audience. My mom read them in the layaway line at Walmart, and yours probably did, too.

But for Patty Gone, a multimedia artist and poet living in New York City, the books are something else entirely. They're a massive cultural force. Given how well they sell, they basically underwrite the entire production of more "serious" contemporary literature.

Romance novels also offer their readers an escape from the doldrums of daily life. And in Gone's case, they provided a pathway to connect with Gone's true gender identity, as well as a way to communicate with their aging grandmother.

The subject of *Love Life*, Gone's book-length essay published by Seattle press Mount Analogue, is the romance novelist Danielle Steel, who has sold more books than J.K. Rowling, Stephen King, Dr. Seuss, Tolstoy, or Dickens. Steel is an interesting figure. She writes her novels with an old typewriter on a desk that is a "Jeff Koons-style" sculpture of her own books. She's also a wealthy heiress who's been married multiple times. One of her husbands was



PATTY GONE

Gone discusses the relationship between their trans identity and Steel's works.

a convicted rapist; another was a rich banker.

In Gone's view, Steel doesn't write "bodice-rippers," as my dad called them. Her books aren't pages of milky thighs and throbbing members. Steel's books follow a common formula, wherein an older man seduces a younger woman mostly by being mean to her. The woman eventually tames the man in one way or another, and they end

up together in the end. Though there may be other suitors in the story, in Steel's books the real Prince Charming will always be the guy who decides to buy her name-brand clothing and commit to starting a family.

In addition to offering fresh insights into a popular genre, *Love Life* is also the first book-length critical essay I've read that contains real narrative tension. In the book, Gone

alternates their innovative literary critique with fan letters written to Steel.

This device reflects one of the more ubiquitous romance tropes, namely the lonesome WWI wife waiting on a letter from her husband. Gone flips the gendered script, giving Steel the role of the soldier-husband abroad. As you read Gone's increasingly pleading letters, which discuss the relationship between Gone's trans identity and Steel's works, you keep wondering if Steel is ever going to respond. In essence, you're reading a romance novel.

Gone is serving as artist-in-residence for the month of March at Mount Analogue, in Pioneer Square's TK Building. On March 17, they will lead a romance-novel workshop. The class will cover romance novel forms and give students prompts to generate their own writing.

Gone will also perform personal readings of Danielle Steel passages by appointment. (Inquire at pattygonebiz@gmail.com.) And on March 21, the artist will screen their *Painted Dreams* video series on a big old projector at Mount Analogue. The series examines American soap operas through academic and personal lenses, combining the soft-focus, satin-pajamas aesthetic of the popular daytime shows with Gone's Bloomingdale window-display style. ■

Top Picks

THURS MARCH 14

Amber Tamblyn: 'Coming of Age in a Time of Rage and Revolution'

In her new memoir, *Era of Ignition: Coming of Age in a Time of Rage and Revolution*, Amber Tamblyn traces the recent history of her own artistic and political development, beginning with the struggles she faced as a female filmmaker in the early aughts, and finishing with her decision to cofound Time's Up, an anti-harassment movement. In addition to being a fine actor and filmmaker, Tamblyn is also a good novelist and poet. She writes with the passion of an activist and the skill of a rhetorician, and not without a healthy dose of humor. Her writing talents and intelligence should keep this Town Hall event lively and challenging, especially for those who don't get why people are so mad about gender discrimination and racial inequities. (Rainier Arts Center, 7:30 pm, \$5.) RICH SMITH



KATIE JACOBS

FRI MARCH 15

Hugo Literary Series: 'The Metamorphosis'

For their literary series, Hugo House asks writers and performers to create brand-new material based on classic works of literature. Fiction writer Benjamin Percy (author of *The Dark Net*, and a man with the deepest voice in literature), novelist and essayist Vanessa Hua (author of *A River of Stars*, which made several Top 10 lists last year), and local poet Keetje Kuipers will riff on Franz Kafka's novella *The Metamorphosis*, about a young salesman who wakes up one morning and discovers that he has transformed into a giant insect. I'm crossing my fingers for a long literary rant from Percy about how much bosses suck, or an essay from Hua defending the sister for abandoning her giant insect brother and essentially reclaiming her time. But even if none of that happens, we'll still have sci-fi R&B songwriter SassyBlack around to perform new Kafka-inspired music, which will undoubtedly rule. (Hugo House, 7:30 pm, \$25.) RICH SMITH

MON MARCH 25

Carolyn Forché: 'What You Have Heard Is True'

If you've read one thing by Carolyn Forché, you've read "The Colonel," a contemporary masterpiece

of a poem about a dinner she had with a Salvadoran colonel as the country was spiraling into a civil war. This new memoir takes as its title the opening line of that poem, which famously ends with the colonel dumping a bag of human ears on the table and dismissing the entire concept of human rights. "Some / of the ears on the floor caught this scrap of his voice. Some of the / ears on the floor were pressed to the ground," she writes. With *What You Have Heard Is True*, this early practitioner of the so-called "poetry of witness" school tells the full story of her trip to El Salvador, sparing no detail. (Elliott Bay Book Company, 7 pm, free.) RICH SMITH

TUES MARCH 26

Sally Wen Mao: 'Oculus'

As the title suggests, Sally Wen Mao investigates the acts of seeing and being seen in *Oculus* (Graywolf Press, 2019), her second book of poetry. In the *New Yorker*, Dan Chiasson called *Oculus* a "strange and morally succinct" book and described her poems as "rangy, protean, contradictory." Sounds like faint praise, but with this book, Mao is using all those tools—which can be delightful and kinetic in poetry—to complicate the pristine pictures of life that fill our social-media feeds. (Elliott Bay Book Company, 7 pm, free.) RICH SMITH

MORE StrangerThingsToDo.com

Short List

Becoming: An Intimate Conversation with Michelle Obama
Tacoma Dome, Sun March 24, 8 pm, \$499+

Christina Gerhardt
Elliott Bay Book Company, Sat March 16, 7 pm, free

Dahr Jamail: The End of Ice
The Summit, Tues March 26, 7:30 pm, \$5

An Evening of Science Fiction with Nancy Kress, Jack Skillingstead, and Daryl Gregory
Central Library, Wed March 20, 7 pm, free

Frans de Waal: Mama's Last Hug
Seattle First Baptist Church, Tues March 19, 7:30 pm, \$5/\$33

Geneve Chao, Wendy Chin-Tanner, Sarah Mangold, Jane Wong
Open Books, Sun March 17, 4:30 pm, free

Irina Reyn with Carol Cassella
Hugo House, Thurs March 14, 7 pm, free

Jacob Tobia: Sissy
Elliott Bay Book Company, Wed March 20, 7 pm, free

Poetry of the Uncanny: GennaRose Nethercott and Sierra Nelson
Hugo House, Wed March 20, 7 pm, free

Preet Bharara
Neptune Theatre, Wed March 27, 7 pm, \$35

Seven Things I've Learned: An Evening with Ira Glass
Washington Center for the Performing Arts, Sun March 24, 5 pm, \$20/\$17

Early Warnings

ANNE LAMOTT Benaroya Hall, Sun April 7, 7:30 pm, \$29-\$58



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ARIZONA <small>JUNE 4 8:00PM</small>	EMPIRE OF THE SUN <small>WALKING ON A DREAM ANNIVERSARY TOUR</small> <small>JUNE 20 9:00PM</small>	BLUE OCTOBER <small>JUNE 21 8:15PM</small>	JACOB COLLIER <small>JUNE 27 8:30PM</small>

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JOE RUSSO'S ALMOST DEAD <small>JUNE 1 MARYMOOR PARK</small>	AMANDA PALMER <small>JUNE 7 PARAMOUNT THEATRE</small>	THE PIANO GUYS <small>AUG 14 MARYMOOR PARK</small>	JOJO SIWA <small>AUG 18 MARYMOOR PARK</small>

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Hope Springs Infernal

How slowcore legends Low's most extreme album became their most celebrated.

BY DAVE SEGAL

My interview with Low guitarist/vocalist Alan Sparhawk is happening as former Donald Trump “fixer” Michael Cohen is testifying before Congress. So it seems apropos to ask which Low song he’d play to facilitate Trump’s resignation.

LOW After some thought, he responds “Breaker,” off *Drums and Guns*, “because lyrically it’s this plea for an end to contention and war. It’s a look at ourselves: What are we doing? Can we stop this?”

“A lot of the new record [the Sub Pop–released *Double Negative*],” Sparhawk continues, “is more about looking at each other and trying to figure out how we begin to hope again.”

Hope cropped up on Low’s 1994 debut LP and slowcore classic, *I Could Live in Hope*. It’s still my favorite release by the Duluth, Minnesota, trio, which also includes drummer/vocalist Mimi Parker and bassist Steve Garrington. But anyone hoping they’d repeat the intimate twilight splendor of that work will be disappointed.

Nowhere is Low’s zest for change starker than on *Double Negative*. Produced with BJ Burton (*not* the Danger Mouse guy), the songs often come coated with gritty distortion and electronic glitchery more common with the noise and IDM genres than the sensitive, methodical songcraft on which Low has built their rep. Paradoxically, Low’s most “difficult” record has earned them a cover



Their new, “difficult” record is getting an overwhelmingly positive response.

story with English magazine the *Wire*, eighth place in the *Village Voice*’s Pazz & Jop poll, and an 86 Metacritic rating.

The overwhelmingly positive response to *Double Negative* surprised Sparhawk; he thought it “seemed a little too weird” for such

acceptance. But he attributes its momentum to timing and listeners’ yearning for music “that reflects what’s going on in the world.”

The opening three songs—“Quorum,” “Dancing and Blood,” and “Fly”—brashly thrust Low’s new approach into fans’ ears.

So much so, some may think there’s a mastering error. Nope, it’s supposed to sound that fucked up. There’s more low-frequency violence à la Autechre and Porter Ricks here than the slowcore balladeering that Low fans have come to expect. Sparhawk and Parker’s plaintive voices often sound warped, loaning them even more pathos than usual. The drums often boom like meticulously deployed bombs. This is not your father’s Low.

What drew Low to immerse these songs in distortion? Sparhawk jokes that “it might be a juvenile carryover” from his more raucous youth. Then he delves deeper. “Ever since I was a child, I remember the little noises in my head that would coincide with different thoughts for me, and they were always distorted sounds. Distortion has always been a reflection of human existence, a kind of bashing against reality. It’s the sound of tension, of two things rubbing against each other uncomfortably.”

But then Low shock again with “The Son, the Sun” and “Always Up,” gorgeous, gaseous pieces of ambient music, and the hushed, spangly ballad “Dancing and Fire,” which harks back to their debut LP... even as Sparhawk sings, “It’s not the end, it’s just the end of hope.”

He says, “There was a realization that the stuff that’s most exciting on this record was where we went really far out and found something new and interesting. We wanted to really go all the way with it.” ■

Top Picks

THURS MARCH 14

Dan Joseph, Blevin Blectum

ELECTRONIC A student of Pauline Oliveros, Alvin Curran, and Terry Riley, New York’s Dan Joseph has made the not-so-common leap from 1980s punk drummer to contemporary electroacoustic composer/improviser whose main tool is the hammered dulcimer. Coupling that traditional instrument with electronic treatments, Joseph creates pieces influenced by early minimalism, ambient music, and “acoustic ecology.” He’ll be performing “Dulcimer Flight,” a beautiful work of gnomic drones and gentle tintinnabulation of the titular instrument: Dig its tantalizing tension. Highly regarded Seattle-based producer Blevin Blectum (aka Bevin Kelley) will be busting out some new creations. Her live shows of late have been spectacularly psychedelic and disorienting. The night will close with a spontaneous collab between

Joseph and Blectum. (*Chapel Performance Space*, 8 pm, all ages, \$10.) DAVE SEGAL

J GRGRY, Duke Evers, I Will Keep Your Ghost, Razor Clam

ROCK/POP Have you seen that movie *Velvet Goldmine*? With Jonathan Rhys Meyers as a David Bowie stand-in, Ewan McGregor doing his best Iggy Pop impersonation, and a youngish Christian Bale trying to keep up with the punk/glitter rock of it all? Okay, well imagine if that film somehow birthed a band. I think J GRGRY would be it. In early performances, members of the LA-based outfit would wiggle around to their electro-pop dance music, covered in body paint reminiscent of that low-key fictionalized Bowie flick. (*Neumos*, 8 pm, \$10/\$12.) JASMYNE KEIMIG

Man Man

ROCK/POP Last fall, Philly experimental rockers Man Man—who’d been mostly quiet after supporting 2013 album *On Oni Pond*—popped up on Facebook with a few live dates, a track on the Sub Pop Singles Club, and a six-date mini-tour,

with Seattle as their second stop. Righteous. I once heard someone describe Man Man (which is creatively driven by multi-instrumental frontman Ryan Kattner, aka Honus Honus, and drums/percs/loops/sampler juggler Christopher Powell, aka Pow Pow) as pirate rock. I can only assume this is due to Kattner’s bellowing rasp, hilariously absurd lyrics, and the lively, offbeat, about-to-fall apart quality of their mix of doo-wop, avant-garde pop, and accessibly discordant weirdo-rock that bobs and bumps and weaves and roils as if on a turbulent sea. While at the same time, there’s something catchy and convulsively danceable about it. Man Man make some of my favorite sounds, ever. (*Crocodile*, 8 pm, all ages, \$20.) LEILANI POLK

FRI MARCH 15

Depth: Developer

ELECTRONIC The local Depth crew’s imprimatur guarantees high-quality techno. Headliner Developer is a Los Angeles producer/DJ and label owner (Modularz) who’s been on the scene since the early 1990s, pushing a subtly ominous and weird strain of techno that blasts away your

biases about LA vacuity. DJ Bricks (aka DJ Louise Croff Blake), as I’ve been telling you for the past few years, is among Seattle’s foremost selectors of deep, after-hours techno and house. Sone (Seattle’s Brian Sonleitner) records for and manages the Bay Area’s stronghold of dark, hard techno, From 0-1, so you know he’s legit. (*Kremwerk*, 10 pm, \$10.) DAVE SEGAL

Mike Doughty Plays Soul Coughing’s ‘Ruby Vroom’

ROCK/POP When I talked to Mike Doughty seven years ago, the ornery, deep-croaking singer-songwriter was emphatic that he’d never feel good about Soul Coughing, that he just had no positive relationship with the music he wrote with his first band, and the notion of being proud of it, “is something I can’t comprehend. But who knows what the future will be like?” At least he admitted to the possibility of changing his mind. Because Soul Coughing were way ahead of their time, their brand of alt rock more like dark, reflective post-jazz with hip-hop and electro production qualities and surprising moments of ear-worminess. It’s nice to

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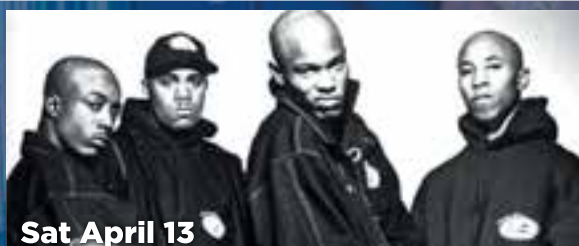
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THINGS DO → Music



Fatoumata Diawara
Thurs March 21 at Neptune Theatre

AIDA MULUNEH

see that Doughty has finally come to appreciate the work he did with them—his own fucking work. Because 1994’s *Ruby Vroom* (which he now calls “the sonic embodiment of lower Manhattan in the early 1990s”) is perfect, fan-fucking-tastic from start to finish, confident, loose, grooving, and just plain fun. Excited that Doughty is playing the entirety of it for its 25th anniversary, and with a full band in tow. Also, I feel old. (*Crocodile*, 8 pm, \$25.) **LEILANI POLK**

Sun of Goldfinger

JAZZ In the 1970s and ’80s, ECM Records—the German company run by producer Manfred Eicher—set the gold standard for a solemn, austere brand of jazz and chamber music that wrings profound poignancy from minimalist methods. ECM still puts out excellent recordings, as evidenced by *Sun of Goldfinger*, the self-titled new LP from the group that includes guitarist David Torn, alto saxophonist Tim Berne, and drummer Ches Smith. They create a highbrow species of spy jazz that sings the subgenre’s well-worn tropes, disperses them into the ether, and breaks through with something altogether more intriguing. Torn told *Earshot* magazine: “This isn’t jazz music or rock music... it’s just music made by people who care deeply about what we’re expressing and how we’re expressing it, however abstract it may feel on first listen.” Come watch these avant-garde masters make some strange magic. (*The Royal Room*, 7 pm, 9:30 pm, all ages, \$20.) **DAVE SEGAL**

SAT MARCH 16

Flower Fest IV

ROCK/POP Coming all the way up from Monterrey, Mexico, alt-rock group Piramides will be headlining this lineup on Capitol Hill with their dizzying synthesis of psychedelia, electronica, ambient, and Latin music. Their latest EP, *Superficie de Uso Mixto Vol. 1*, sounds exactly like the soundtrack to a 22nd century film that follows a teenager through space. Interpret that however you like. They’ll be joined by other notable indie rock acts: Somesurprises, Weeed, Pleasures, Ah God, Sundae Crush, Swamp Meat vs. Killer Ghost, Sei Still, and Baywitch. (*Highline*, 8 pm, \$12/\$15.) **JASMYNE KEIMIG**

THIS!: Stacey Pullen

DJ Second-wave Detroit-techno royalty who was schooled by legends Derrick May, Juan Atkins, and Kevin Saunderson, Stacey Pullen has

been a tireless advocate for the highest-flying techno as a disc jockey, producer, and boss of Black Flag Recordings. In his own releases and in DJ sets, Pullen (aka Kosmik Messenger) favors funky techno that travels the spaceways bad and beautiful (reference to proto-Afrofuturist Sun Ra intended). Most Americans tend to take Detroit-techno veterans for granted, but you should make it a priority to catch artists such as Pullen when they make their rare Seattle visits. They have so much wisdom and musical history to impart—and they’ve been moving dance floors like champs for three decades. (*Monkey Loft*, 10 pm–4 am, \$20.) **DAVE SEGAL**

SUN MARCH 17

Space Owl, Johnny and the Moles, Willow, Goodtime Hustle

BLUES/COUNTRY/FOLK I’m impressed by this lineup. St. Paddy’s is traditionally a big booze-it-up night—and Substation has enough bands on lock to ensure NO ONE who makes it till close will make it to work the following Monday! Headliners Space Owl will be laying down an easy vibin’ Grateful Dead tribute set, but only after swingers Johnny and the Moles (who will hopefully BRING THE TUBA) swing their swangin’, and Goodtime Hustle have played their mid-tempo, melodic “folkadelic con-fusion.” Oh, tonight is also “introducing”—like, I think it’s their first show—the band Willow. Good luck, boozy groovers!!! (*Substation*, 8 pm, \$10.) **MIKE NIPPER**

TUES MARCH 19

San Francisco Symphony with Michael Tilson Thomas

CLASSICAL/OPERA Michael Tilson Thomas is one of America’s most renowned music directors. During his 24-year-long stewardship of the San Francisco Symphony, he was known as the man who made a home for contemporary symphonic music out west, championing American music over the old European repertory. (Though he and SFO are known for their Mahler, too.) On this trip to Seattle, the famed conductor will breathe new life into Beethoven’s Eroica Symphony, one of the composer’s most celebrated, emotionally complex, and consequential pieces of music. Thomas will also conduct his own composition, *Agnegram*. (*Benaroya Hall*, 7:30 pm, \$82–\$165.) **RICH SMITH**



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<p>SATURDAY 4/6 BOB MOULD BAND HUTCH HARRIS</p>	<p>TUESDAY 4/9 DENNIS LLOYD</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY 4/10 MISSIO BLACKILLAC + SWELLS</p>
<p>THURSDAY 4/11 AVEY TARE</p>	<p>FRIDAY 4/12 GIRLPOOL HATCHIE</p>	<p>THURSDAY 4/18 SHY GIRLS EEVEE</p>
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THINGS  DO → Music



ALEX-KNOWLES

WED MARCH 20

Foals, Bear Hands, Kiev

ROCK/POP “This Orient” might be one of my all-time favorite love songs that might not actually be a love song. It’s off Foals’ 2010 outing, *Total Life Forever*, the album that introduced me to the British rock band with dance-punk and art-rock tendencies. The song is fast-paced and urgent, but also sweet and entreating, and the chorus, “It’s your heart, it’s your heart / That gives me this western feeling,” matches the sound, which has a vague western feeling. Foals just released their fifth full-length, *Everything Not Saved Will Be Lost – Part 1*. First single “Exits” has a commanding groove and compelling tone, while “Sunday” is lightly warped and meandering before amping it up with a galloping unz-unz-unz tempo that segues into a spacious climax. Can’t wait to hear the rest. (*Paramount Theatre*, 8 pm, all ages, \$39.) **LEILANI POLK**

Wednesday Experiments: Sunwatchers, Mega Bog, Drama Bahama, Swamp Meat

EXPERIMENTAL/NOISE NYC quartet Sunwatchers stand as one of America’s greatest bands of the 2010s. Their self-titled 2016 album on John Dwyer’s Castle Face label is a torrid blast of horn-powered rock shot through with the sinuous melodies of Ethiopian jazz and spiritual ache of Saharan desert psychedelic blues. Concerns about white Westerner appropriation fly out the window once you hear how Sunwatchers alchemize these elements into transcendental jams. Their guitar tunings are unusual and their timbres scalding, not unlike those of the fantastic Horse Lords and Cave. Sunwatchers’ new album, *Illegal Moves*, ups the ante even more, generating ecstatic mantric riffs that spiral skyward with a relentlessness that sounds and feels revolutionary. All this, plus a rapturous cover of Alice Coltrane’s “Ptah, the El Daoud.” (*Southgate Roller Rink*, 9 pm, \$15.) **DAVE SEGAL**

THURS MARCH 21

Fatoumata Diawara

WORLD MUSIC Malian singer-songwriter Fatoumata Diawara’s voice is absolutely captivating. It skips like a rock over water across different regis-

ters and has a sort of Sade quality. This year, she earned two nominations at the 2019 Grammys for Best World Music Album (for her *Fenfo* LP), and Best Dance Recording for “Ultimatum,” which featured English duo Disclosure. So obviously, Diawara has range. Coming out of France, Diawara’s music blends Wassoulou traditions of southern Mali with other musical influences and a dose of searing electric guitar. The result is a funky, folky, futuristic sound. All that being said, Diawara is truly an incredible artist, and her stop in Seattle is a big deal. Don’t miss it. (*Neptune Theatre*, 8 pm, all ages, \$19.) **JASMYNNE KEIMIG**

Habitat: Riva Starr, Dosem

DJ Studio 4/4’s segue from Q Nightclub to Kremwerk/Timbre Room has gone smoothly. Another case in point is this strong bill. Riva Starr (London-based Italian DJ/producer Stefano Miele) is a purveyor of rugged, trippy house music who’s performed at mega-festivals such as Glastonbury and Fuji Rock. He’s also famous for collaborating with Chicago house deity Green Velvet and for his “Re-chunk” edits, which have included rad transformations of Daft Punk’s “Burnin’” and the Doors’ “The End.” Dosem (Spanish producer Marc Ramirez) should complement Riva Starr well with his spacey, good-time techno and house selections. (*Kremwerk*, 9 pm, \$12.) **DAVE SEGAL**

MARCH 21–24

Victor Wooten

JAZZ Victor Wooten is a jazz fusion bassist at the top of his class who’s also well-versed in funk and bluegrass. He is a musician’s musician and an esteemed member of Béla Fleck and the Flecktones for that band’s entire nearly three-decade tenure. He’s technically savvy, dexterous, and exciting, while also warm, breezy, and fun to watch, on both fretted and fretless bass. He deserves all the props he gets, because Wooten is the *shit*. Expect a lively and intoxicating four-night run. (*Jazz Alley*, all ages, \$41.) **LEILANI POLK**

FRI MARCH 22

Bad Bunny

HIPHOP/RAP The debut studio album of Puerto Rican reggaetón and Latin trap icon Bad Bunny, *X100PRE* (a Spanish abbreviation for “por siempre,” or forever), has an eye on it. Did you see it?

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THINGS TO DO → *Music*

Bad Bunny also has his hair shaved in a way that it points to where that third eye would be. Or is. *X100PRE* dropped right before Christmas last year, and in many ways it feels like the gift that keeps on giving. From the pensiveness of “Estamos Bien” to the beat-switch in “La Romana,” *el conejo malo* seems to know exactly what we need without us knowing what we want. Maybe there’s something to that eye, after all. (*Tacoma Dome, 8 pm, \$45–\$579.*) **JASMYNKE KEIMIG**

Snuff Redux, Spesh, Chris Cheveyo

ROCK/POP Seattle lo-fi garage-rock four-piece Snuff Redux are the kind of band that sings about Lou Reed. On the song “French Press,” off their most recent outing, *Denim American*, lead singer Skyler Ford recounts sitting on a bench with the aforementioned coffee brewing device on the day Lou Reed died, wishing that he was in Paris again, thinking about love, etc. Snuff Redux will be joined by the fun, dancey Spesh and the dreamy Chris Cheveyo. (*Clock-Out Lounge*, 9 pm, \$10.)

JASMYNE KEIMIG

SAT MARCH 23

Gamelan Pacific & Darsono

WORLD MUSIC Gamelan is traditional ensemble music from Indonesia that relies heavily on mallet-struck metallophones and drums called *kendhang*, with other sounds emitting from bamboo flutes, xylophones, and the bowed instrument *rebab*. It can sound chaotic yet regimented or serenely mellifluous, but it is never less than mesmerizing. Gamelan Pacifica have long been Seattle's foremost practitioners of the style, and for this concert, they're collaborating with Central Java musician Darsono (making his Seattle debut), as they perform pieces from his region's repertoire. In addition, Stranger Genius Jessica Kenney will lend her vocals to the proceedings. (*Chapel Performance Space, 8 pm, all ages, \$5-\$15.*) **DAVE SEGAL**

Methyl Ethel, TEEN

ROCK/POP Two synthesizer-fueled psychedelic bands land in town under one bill. Australia-brewed Methyl Ethel's singer and musical leader Jake Webb has that asexual vocal quality—could be a man, could be a woman, à la Rhye's Mike Milosh. Webb's high-toned tenor doesn't hit falsetto notes but has a very smooth, malleable feel. Methyl Ethel lean more on the surrealist art rock/psych pop spectrum of trippiness, with definitive grooviness and very light krautiness. The 4AD-repped band is supporting just-released third record *Triage*. Brooklyn's TEEN lean more to straightforward synth-pop tones, sisters Lizzie, Katherine, and Teeny Lieberman trading dulcet vocal harmonies over bouncy jams. They're on tour behind self-produced *Good Fruit*, an upbeat breakup record. (Barboza, 7 pm, \$13.)

LEILANI POLK


LEILANI POLK

SUN MARCH 24

Mike Baggetta with Mike Watt and Stephen Hodges, Dan Phelps

JAZZ New York guitarist Mike Baggetta's new album, *Wall of Flowers*, features bassist Mike Watt (Minutemen, Firehose, Iggy Pop and the Stooges) and drummer Jim Keltner (John Lennon, George Harrison, Gábor Szabó, etc.). (Stephen Hodges—who's worked with Mavis Staples, Tom Waits, and David Lynch—sits in for the latter at this live gig.) That's mucho firepower for a musician many probably haven't heard of. The thing is, *Wall of Flowers* doesn't really sound like any of the artists with whom Watt and company have played. Rather, the album's eight tracks spangle, clang, and shimmer in the noirish-jazz/no-wave nexus where Joe Morris, Robert Quine, and Robert Fripp at his mellowest and most minimal dwell. What I mean is, there's no way this won't be great. (*The Royal Room*, 8 pm, all ages, \$15.) **DAVE SEGAL**

Wet, Kilo Kish, Helena Deland



ROCK/POP Brooklyn-based band Wet and LA-based artist/musician Kilo Kish have teamed up to coheadline this tour. Like wine and cheese, popcorn and chocolate, pizza and salad, these artists pair well together. Wet have more of an indie-pop vibe, with lead singer Kelly Zutrau's vocals sounding like they could fit just as well on a twangier tune as they do on the band's synth-rocking songs. Kilo Kish, who has collaborated with rappers like Childish Gambino and Vince Staples, is much more singular, with her delicate voice soaring over beats you could easily hear pulsing outside a nightclub.

(Neptune Theatre, 8 pm, all ages, \$25/\$29.) JASMYNE KEIMIG

MON MARCH 25

Vince Staples, JPEGMAFIA, Channel Tres

HIPHOP/RAP What makes Vince Staples so appealing is his capacity to really not give a fuck what you think. And not even in a way that's overtly showboating. No, Vince is here to rap some raps, collect a check, and bounce. That's the kind of forthrightness I appreciate, and I think it's also what makes him such a great rapper. Often, he doesn't focus on the flex, but on the music. His latest effort, *FM!*, sounds more like an experience than an album, like driving down the highway in the hot summer with one of those raucous radio stations turned on full blast. You can see the heat rising off the blacktop over the sounds of Long Beach-inflected hiphop. Exactly the way Vince should be appreciated. (*Showbox Soda*, 8 pm, all ages, \$35-\$135.) **JASMYNE KEIMIG**



Vince Staples

COURTESY OF DEF JAM PRESS ROOM



NEPTUNE

1303 NE 45TH ST



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STG SEATTLE
THEATRE
GROUP

THIS FRI MAR 15
DAR WILLIAMS
LINDI ORTEGA

NEXT WEEK! MARCH 19
ISAAC MIZRAHI - I & ME

NEXT WEEK! MARCH 21
STG PRESENTS
FATOUmata DIAWARA

NEXT WEEK! FRI MARCH 22
THE SWAMPLEX 2019 TOUR
12TH PLANET
GENTLEMEN'S CLUB | SHLUMP
MVRDA

MARCH 24
WET + KILO KISH
HELENA DELAND

SAT MARCH 30
TONE ISSUES TOUR
RONNY CHIENG

APRIL 1
BROODS
BAD SOUNDS

APRIL 3
THE VERDICT TOUR
QUEENSRYCHE
FATES WARNING

FRIDAY APRIL 5
GOOD FRIENDS ARE NICE TOUR
JACK & JACK
ALEC BAILEY
SPENCER SUTHERLAND

APRIL 11 - ON SALE NOW! APRIL 12 - SOLD OUT!
THE NATIVE TONGUE TOUR
SWITCHFOOT
COLONY HOUSE
TYSON MOTSENBOCKER

SAT APRIL 27
ARI SHAFFIR

APRIL 28
IN YOUR FACE
NINA CONTI

MAY 3-4-5
FRIENDS!
THE MUSICAL PARODY

FRI MAY 10 - SOLD OUT!
SAT MAY 11 - ON SALE NOW!
BETTY: THE TOUR
BETTY WHO

SAT MAY 18 - LATE SHOW ADDED!
GOOD PROBLEM TO HAVE
NATE BARGATZE

ON SALE FRI 10AM
FRI MAY 24
ALBUM RELEASE SHOW
THE TRUE LOVES
SOUL SPECTACULAR
PROM QUEEN

MAY 22
RATTLESNAKE US TOUR 2019
THE STRUMBELLAS

FRI MAY 31
ALL OF THIS LIFE TOUR 2019
THE RECORD COMPANY

ON SALE NOW!
SAT JUNE 1
LIVE PODCAST
GIRLS GOTTA EAT

JUNE 11
YOURS TO KEEP ALBUM TOUR
STICKY FINGERS

ON SALE FRI 10AM
JUNE 12
RUN FAST SLEEP NAKED 2019 TOUR
NICK MURPHY

ON SALE NOW!
JUNE 19
SANCTUARY TOUR
ALY & AJ

ON SALE NOW!
FRI JUNE 21
LA SANTA CECILIA

ON SALE FRI AT 10AM
SAT JUNE 22
BILL CALLAHAN

FRI JUNE 28
DIE ROCKIN' TOUR 2019
WHISKEY MYERS
BRENT COBB

JULY 28 & 30
BROKEN SOCIAL SCENE

ON SALE NOW!
SAT OCTOBER 26
STG PRESENTS & CHBP WELCOMES
WHITNEY

ON SALE FRI 10AM
DECEMBER 5
A JOHN WATERS CHRISTMAS

ON SALE NOW!

WHINDERSSON NUNES | MAR 16 • MT. JOY | MAR 26
LENNON STELLA | APR 8 • SAMMY J | APR 19
LOVELYTHEBAND | APR 20 • CASPAR BABYPANTS | APR 27
WE THREE | APR 28 • RIVAL SONS | MAY 2 • BAD SUNS | MAY 7
LEÓN | MAY 8 • ANI DI FRANCO | MAY 13 • THE TEA PARTY | MAY 14
LOCAL NATIVES | MAY 16 & 17 • ELLE KING | MAY 20 • PARACHUTE | JUNE 4
ZOE KEATING | JUNE 6 • PETER HOOK & THE LIGHT | NOV 5



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NEPTUNE
THEATRE GROUP

HIGHLINE

WEEKLY ON
MONDAYS:
FUCK YEAH BINGO
7-9PM

Friday, March 15
COVEN
Xoth
Witchaven
Orator
9PM \$10-\$12

Saturday, March 16
PIRAMIDES
Somesurprises
Weed
Pleasures
Ah God
Sundae Crush
Swamp Meat vs Killer Ghost
Sei Still
Baywitch
8PM \$12-\$15

Tuesday, March 19
LAZERPUNK
Shredder 1984
2 Libras
8PM \$14-\$17

Tuesday, March 26
ABORTED
Cryptopsy
Benighted
Hideous Divinity
8PM \$17-\$20

Friday, March 29
KOFFIN KATS
Bridge City Sinners,
Bad Sex, Raw Dogs
9PM \$12-\$15

Sunday, March 31
EFFECT PEDAL SWAP!
5PM FREE

Sunday, April 7
ALTAR DE FEY
Cruz de Navajas
Dead Spells
Line Of Flight
w/DJ Batlord
9PM \$10-\$12

Friday, April 12
KONTRAVOID
Sex Park
Profit Prison
Bloom Offering
9PM \$12-\$15

Saturday, April 13
BOY HARSHER
Special Interest
YourYoungBody
w/DJ Manimal
9PM \$13-\$15

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Thursday 3/14
91.3 KBCS PRESENTS
I DRAW SLOW
MARCH TO MAY
8PM \$12/\$15

Friday 3/15
NOLA INSTITUTION
**REBIRTH
BRASS BAND**
7:30 & 10PM \$25/\$30

Saturday 3/16
ACOUSTIC BLUES FOLK
**MARTY O'REILLY,
BEN MORRISON**
TEKLA WATERFIELD
9PM \$12/\$15

Sunday 3/17
AN EVENING WITH
THE PAPERBOYS
7PM \$20

Saturday 3/23
98.9 THE BULL PRESENTS
**DYLAN JAKOBSEN,
THE LOWDOWN
DRIFTERS**
THE TALBOTT BROTHERS
9PM \$15/\$18

Tuesday 3/26
GUITAR DRIVEN ROCK
DELICATE STEVE
THICK PAINT
8PM \$12/\$14

Wednesday 3/27
WO'POP ON KEXP PRESENTS
**RED BARAAT,
VIDYA VOX**
8PM \$15/\$20

Thursday 3/28
FINNISH COUNTRYGRASS
STEVE'N'S EAGULLS
SWEET LOU'S SOURMASH
9PM \$18/\$20

Friday 3/29
TX COUNTRY ROCK
KOE WETZEL
DARIN JONES &
THE LAST MEN STANDING
9PM \$12/\$15

Saturday 3/30
PSYCHEDELIC R & B
NIGHT BEATS
LA WITCH
CALVIN LOVE
9PM \$15/\$18

Thursday 3/21
91.3 KBCS PRESENTS
ROBBIE FULKS
MIKE GIACOLINO
8PM \$17/\$20

UP & COMING
3/19 THE SUFFERS 3/20 BIG TOOTH 3/22 LDW 3/24 LONELY MOUNTAIN LOVERS
4/2 CARTER WINTER 4/3 KATE DINSMORE 4/4 AYL NERO 4/5 & 4/6 JD MCPHERSON
4/7 THE TROUBLE NOTES 4/10 SHANE SMITH 4/11 THE LAST REVEL 4/12 GRATEFUL SHRED

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NECTAR

3.13 Wednesday (Grateful Dead Tribute)
THE GOLDEN ROAD
performing "EUROPE '72"

3.14 Thursday (Funk/Jazz)
An evening with
MCTUFF PLUS HORNS

3.15 Friday (Rock/Jam)
SPAFFORD
HopSol

3.16 Saturday (Bollywood Dance Party)
early all ages show / late 21+ only
**HOLI HAI - 9TH ANNUAL
COLOR FESTIVAL**
DJ Prashant

3.26 Tuesday (Jam/Prog)
**SPYN RESET, BLUE LOTUS,
MOTUS**

3.27 Wednesday (Funk)
LUCKY BROWN'S FUNKWAYS
Ten Man Brass Band, Flip Phone

3.29 Friday (Americana)
POOR MAN'S WHISKEY tribute
ALLMAN BROTHERS BAND
Buzz Brump

3.30 Saturday ('90s Music)
**SHE'S ALL THAT:
'90s PROM PARTY**
#All4Doras, DJ Moyneletric + DJ Lo Knows
(aka NisMode)

3.17 Sunday (Americana/Folk)
AN EARLY EVENING WITH
**POLECAT - ST.
PADDY'S DAY PARTY**

3.19 Tuesday (Reggae)
BLACK UHURU
Onesty, Dub Lounge International

3.20 & 3.21 Wed & Thu (Funk/Soul)
TWO FUNKY EVENINGS WITH
**KARL DENSON'S
TINY UNIVERSE**

3.22 Friday (Electronic)
BLUETECH
Subaqueous, Ovoid

3.23 Saturday (Jamgrass/Bluegrass)
JEFF AUSTIN BAND
World's Finest

3.28 Thursday (Hip-Hop)
THA ALKAHOLIKS
Khingz, Mic Flont, Massiah, B-Boy
Fidget, Mr Hi-Def, DJ Indica Jones

EVERY MONDAY: MOJAM
4.3 MAX ROMEO +
DUBTONIC KRU
4.4 DIRTY REVIVAL
4.5 LITTLE PEOPLE
4.6 PINK TALKING FISH
4.7 MASON JENNINGS
4.11 DELHI 2 DUBLIN
4.12 ANDY COE BAND
4.13 MURS
4.13 MARCHFOURTH at Neumos
4.18 CON BRIO
4.19 GHOST-NOTE
4.20 HOT BUTTERED RUM
4.20 BUMPIN UGLIES at High Dive
4.21 LEILANI WOLFGRAMM
4.25 DADELUS
4.26 TRUTH b2b STYLUST
4.27 BIDDADAT & BOOBOOLALA
4.28 EKOLU
5.2 DEAD WINTER
CARPENTERS
FLOWMOTION
5.3 FLOR DE TOLOACHE
5.4 & 5.5 (2 NIGHTS!)
FAREED HAQUE &
5.8 FLAT EARTH
5.10 MICHAEL MENERT BAND
with EXMAG
5.11 BUN B
5.15 NICOLA CRUZ
5.16 DZAMBO AGUSEVI
ORCHESTRA
5.17 CLASSIC HIP-HOP NIGHT
5.17 LIL DEBBIE at High Dive
5.18 MARK FARINA
5.19 THE SLOCAN RAMBLERS
5.24 TRL TOTAL REQUEST LIVE
5.25 LAS CAFETERAS
5.30 & 5.31 THE PHARCYDE
6.1 BOB DYLAN TRIBUTE
at High Dive
6.6 LONG BEACH DUB
ALL-STARs

THINGS DO → Music



Cass McCombs
Tues March 26 at
Chop Suey

SILVIA GRAV

TUES MARCH 26

Cass McCombs, Sam Evian

ROCK/POP Cass McCombs has that vocal quality that sounds like he's not trying hard at all, effortless and occasionally breathy and spacious. He makes singer-songwriter fare that feels dusty and worn and warm, whose maker you can picture having that sort of tousled, just-out-of-bed, never-brushed-but-probably-washed sort of hair. It's easygoing folkadelia, easy to dig on, and possibly fall in love with, because it reminds you of something on the tip of your brain that you just can't place. Which is ironic considering the title of his ninth and latest album, *Tip of the Sphere*. RYL: John Cale, Kurt Vile, Phosphorescent. (*Chop Suey*, 7 pm, \$20/\$22.) **LEILANI POLK**

MARCH 26–27

Built to Spill, Oruã, the French Tips

ROCK/POP Built to Spill was the band that all my dude friends in junior high said they listened to before they started a band of their own. In that way, maybe Built to Spill are the West Coast's answer to the Velvet Underground. Okay, I'm mostly kidding about that one, but now that I'm thinking

about it, 1999's *Keep It Like a Secret* seems to be the progenitor of so much of modern indie rock's sound, that it's almost like I've seen the band live before. But I haven't. Go and luxuriate in the sounds of flannel, beanies, and earnest angst. (*Columbia City Theater*, 8 pm, sold out.) **JASMYNE KEIMIG**

WED MARCH 27

Motherhood, Black Giraffe

ROCK/POP New Brunswick, Canada, trio Motherhood blend an odd array of styles—freak folk, neo-prog, spazzy, left-field pop—into sporadically interesting songs. At their best, the tracks on new album *Dear Bongo* ramble with an endearing goofiness, creating the sense that things may spiral into chaos at any second, in the manner of early Pixies or early Man Man; see “#224” for an exemplary example. Motherhood exhibit a non-haughty eagerness to experiment while still crafting memorable melodies, and even if they sometimes come off as hokey, you have to admire their skewed ambition. (*Central Saloon*, 8 pm, \$8.) **DAVE SEGAL**

MORE StrangerThingsToDo.com

Short List

Andrew McMahon in the Wilderness, flor, Grizfolk

Moore Theatre, Fri March 15, 7 pm, all ages, \$30–\$33

The Antlers

Fremont Abbey Arts Center, Tues March 19, 7:30–10 pm, all ages, sold out

Bronze Radio Return, Wildermis

Crocodile, Fri March 22, 8 pm, all ages, \$16

Citizen Cope, G. Love & Special Sauce

The Showbox, March 23–24, 8:30 pm, \$45/\$50

Curtis Salgado

Triple Door, Fri March 15, 8 pm, all ages, \$25–\$34

Dar Williams, Lindi Ortega

Neptune Theatre, Fri March 15, 8 pm, all ages, \$35/\$39

Dave Mason & Steve Cropper

Neptune Theatre, Wed March 20, 8 pm, all ages, \$64–\$150

Deafheaven, Baroness, Zeal & Ardor

The Showbox, Tues March 19, 8 pm, all ages, \$32/\$36

An Evening with Burt Bacharach

Benaroya Hall, Fri March 15, 8 pm, \$45–\$100

Galactic, Erica Falls, Lyrics Born

The Showbox, Fri March 22, 9 pm, all ages, \$32/\$37

Graveyard, Uncle Acid & the Deadbeats

The Showbox, Mon March 18, 8 pm, \$25/\$30

Karl Denson's Tiny Universe

Nectar, March 20–21, 8:30 pm, \$26–\$50

Kodak Black, YNW Melly, CalBoy, Sniper Gang

WaMu Theater, Mon March 25, 8 pm, all ages, \$37

Laura Jane Grace & the Devouring Mothers, Mercy Union, Control Top

Crocodile, Tues March 26, 8 pm, all ages, \$23

Lettuce

Triple Door, March 27–29, 8 pm, all ages, \$80–\$90

Metric, Zoé, July Talk

Moore Theatre, Sat March 16, 6:45 pm, all ages, \$38–\$44 (sold out)

Nina Nesbitt, Plested, Sophie Rose

Columbia City Theater, Sun March 24, 8 pm, all ages, \$15

Omar Sosa

Triple Door, Tues March 19, 7:30 pm, all ages, \$30–\$38

Shemekia Copeland

Jazz Alley, March 26–27, 7:30 pm, all ages, \$31

Terror JR

Neumos, Wed March 27, 7:30 pm, \$16/\$18

Tori Kelly

Paramount Theatre, Thurs March 14, 8 pm, all ages, \$26–\$36

West Coast High 2019 with Cypress Hill and Hollywood Undead, Demrick, Xzibit

Showbox Sodo, Tues March 19, 7:30 pm, all ages, \$35–\$285



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ROCK AND ROLL OVER THE ULTIMATE KISS TRIBUTE MARCH 30	CHEAPER TRIXX A TRIBUTE TO CHEAP TRICK 10PM / NO COVER MARCH 30	JOJOURNEY UNAUTHORIZED APRIL 5

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THE POINT

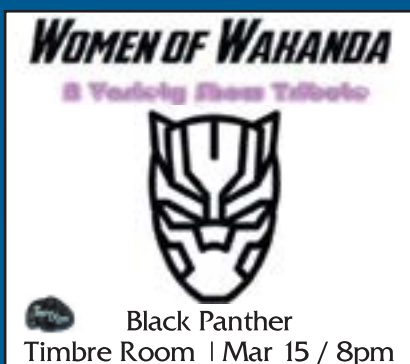
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3/13
WEDNESDAY



The Crocodile Presents:
Tyler Edwards & The Mighty Kind
Hyways, Kathleen Murray 21 & Over

3/14
THURSDAY



The Crocodile Presents:
Man Man
Rebecca Black All Ages

3/16
SATURDAY



The Crocodile Presents:
Alo
Scott Pemberton Band
All Ages

3/17
SUNDAY



The Crocodile Presents:
Sasha Sloan
Lauren Aquilina
All Ages

3/17
SUNDAY



The Crocodile Presents:
The Dales @ The Sunset
21 & Over

3/21
THURSDAY



The Crocodile Presents:
Blaqk Audio - Only Things We Love Tour
Silent Rival
21 & Over

FEATURED



Thu 4/18
THE EXPENDABLES



Tue 5/21
FRENSHIP



Fri 6/7
FLOATER

3/20 JAY CRITCH 3/22 RONZE RADIO RETURN 3/23 HAELOS 3/24 THE BRIGHT LIGHT SOCIAL HOUR 3/26 LAURA JANE GRACE 3/28 BOMBINO 3/29 CHAI @ THE VERA PROJECT 3/30 HOLI 3/31 PLINI 4/2 JOHN 5 4/3 LIL TRACY 4/4 SLOTHRUST 4/5 GRANDSON 4/6 THE DRIVER ERA 4/8 CUPCAKKE 4/9 DILLY DALLY 4/11 SHOOK TWINS 4/12 THE BEST 80'S PARTY EVER! 4/13 BEATMATCH 2019 4/17 ALICE MERTON

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THE SEATTLE PARAMOUNT THEATRE

THINGS DO → Music

Early Warnings

AN EVENING WITH MICHAEL BUBLÉ *Tacoma Dome, Sat April 6, 8 pm, \$69–\$144+*

LIL PUMP, LIL SKIES *WaMu Theater, Fri April 19, 7 pm, \$47–\$199*

BEACH HOUSE *Moore Theatre, May 8–9, 8 pm, \$33–\$46*

DOUBLE MAJOR FESTIVAL *Civic Stadium, Sat May 18, 5 pm*

ROB THOMAS, ABBY ANDERSON *Chateau Ste. Michelle, Thurs June 13, 7 pm, \$70/\$90*

PARADISO FESTIVAL *Gorge Amphitheatre, June 14–15, \$179–\$499*

LUDOVICO EINAUDI *McCaw Hall, Tues June 18, 7:30 pm*

ALY & AJ *Neptune Theatre, Wed June 19, 8 pm, \$24–\$29*

WU-TANG CLAN *WaMu Theater, Fri June 21, 8 pm, \$47*

JIM JAMES AND CLAYPOOL LENNON DELIRIUM *The Showbox, Mon June 24, 8:30 pm, \$52*

PENTATONIX, RACHEL PLATTEN *Tacoma Dome, Wed July 3, 7:30 pm, \$30–\$130+*

NORAH JONES *Chateau Ste. Michelle, Sat July 27, 7 pm, \$60/\$100*

MOUNTAIN MAN *Crocodile, Tues July 30, 7 pm, \$30*

WATERSHED FESTIVAL 2019 *Gorge Amphitheatre, Aug 2–4, \$215+*

THE NATIONAL, ALVVAYS *Marymoor Park, Thurs Aug 29, 6:45 pm, \$60/\$65*

GARY CLARK JR. *Chateau Ste. Michelle, Wed Sept 11, 7 pm, \$56/\$70*

PETER FRAMPTON FINALE WITH JASON BONHAM'S LED ZEPPELIN EVENING *Paramount Theatre, Wed Oct 9, 7:30 pm, \$66–\$346+*

BIG THIEF *Moore Theatre, Sat Oct 26, 8 pm, \$23/\$26*

THE CHAINSMOKERS, 5SOS, LENNON STELLA *Tacoma Dome, Tues Dec 3, 7 pm, \$50–\$100+*

Thurs 3/14

BARBOZA And The Kids, Cardioid, 8 pm, \$10/\$12

BENAROYA HALL S. MARK TAPER FOUNDATION AUDITORIUM Bach's Mass in B Minor, \$22–\$122

CENTURY BALLROOM Kizomba, 8:30 pm–1:30 am, \$9–\$15

CHOP SUEY Mercy Parker, King Mammoth, Cloud Person, 8 pm, \$8/\$10

★ **HAVANA** Sophisticated Mama, 9 pm, free

HIGH DIVE Marmalade, 9 pm, \$7

★ **JAZZ ALLEY** Catherine Russell, \$33

★ **KREMWERK** Studio 4/4 Presents Habitat with Wehbba, 9 pm, \$10

★ **NECTAR** An Evening with OG McTuff Plus Horns, 8 pm, \$10/\$15

★ **RENDEZVOUS** Sub Rosa Series Presents Stephanie Anne Johnson and David Kelley, 6 pm, \$25

★ **SEAMONSTER LOUNGE** Evan Flory-Barnes, 10:30 pm–1 am, free

TRACTOR TAVERN I Draw Slow, March To May, 8 pm, \$12

TRIPLE DOOR MQ STAGE Marco de Carvalho, 5 pm, free

Fri 3/15

★ **BLUE MOON TAVERN** Hound Dog Taylor's Hand, V. Vecker, Fraktal Phantom, Noel Kennon & Dave Abramson, 8:30 pm, \$10

★ **CHAPEL PERFORMANCE SPACE** SIMF: Paul Hoskin Tribute, 8 pm, \$5–\$20

NECTAR Spafford, 8 pm, \$18–\$79

★ **NEUMOS** Ripe, The Brook & The Bluff, 8 pm, \$15

★ **SAINT MARK'S CATHEDRAL** The Cathedral Trio, 7:30 pm, \$10/\$15

★ **TRACTOR TAVERN** Rebirth Brass Band, 10 pm

★ **TULA'S** Bill Anschell Quartet, 7:30–10:30 pm, \$22

THE UNDERGROUND Phantasma, 9 pm–2 am, \$10–\$20

VERMILLION Bloom: Indigenous People's Dance Party, 10 pm–1:30 am, free–\$20

Sat 3/16

ASTON MANOR DNA Saturdays, 10 pm–2 am, free

BARBOZA MIJA, 7 pm, \$18/\$20

BENAROYA HALL S. MARK TAPER FOUNDATION AUDITORIUM Bach's Mass in B Minor, \$22–\$122

★ **CHAPEL PERFORMANCE SPACE** Guitar Cult, Bill Horist, Evan Flory-Barnes, 8 pm, \$5–\$15

CHOP SUEY Dance Yourself Clean, 9 pm, \$5

CLOCK-OUT LOUNGE No Chill: '90s-'00s Hip-hop and R&B Throwback Dance Party, 9 pm, \$10

KREMWERK JK POP! Comic-Con Edition, 10 pm, \$8/\$10

LO-FI SNAP! 90s Dance Party, 9 pm, \$10

NECTAR Holi Hai: India's Festival of Colors, 1 pm, 9 pm, \$10–\$25

NEUMOS Twiddle, Iya Terra, 8 pm, \$18–\$100

★ **PARAMOUNT THEATRE** HYMN: Sarah Brightman in Concert, 8 pm, \$46–\$246+

★ **SHOWBOX SODO** Within Temptation, 7 pm, \$38/\$40

TIMBRE ROOM Profit Prison, Pill Brigade, Neuroprison, Plum, Thee Effluvium, 5–9 pm, \$7

TRACTOR TAVERN Marty O'Reilly & the Old Soul Orchestra, Ben Morrison, Tekla Waterfield, 9 pm

VITO'S RESTAURANT & LOUNGE Jerry Zimmerman, 6–9 pm, free

Sun 3/17

THE ANGRY BEAVER Jazz at the Beaver, 9 pm, free

AUBURN AVENUE THEATER The Gothard Sisters, 2 pm, \$20/\$23

BARBOZA William Ryan Key, 7 pm, \$16

★ **BELLEVEUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** Northwest Symphony Orchestra: Music for the Soul, 3 pm, \$15/\$20

★ **BENAROYA HALL ILLSLEY BALL NORDSTROM RECITAL HALL** Byron Schenkman & Friends: Mozart Violin Sonatas, 7 pm, \$10–\$48

★ **CAFE RACER** Racer Sessions, 8 pm, free

CHOP SUEY Golden Idols, Dirty Rugs, Sundog, 4:30 pm, \$5.00–\$10.00

COLUMBIA CITY THEATER Rahale B., 6 pm, \$12.00

★ **EL CORAZON** Wristmeetrazor, Meth, Outlier, 6:30 pm, \$10/\$12

FADO IRISH PUB Irish Sessions, 4–7 pm, free

KREMWERK Fraktured, 10 pm–2 am, free

★ **LANGSTON HUGHES PERFORMING ARTS INSTITUTE** Sultana: Music of the Sephardic Diaspora, 2:30 pm, \$20–\$45

NECTAR Polecat's St. Paddy's Day Party, 7 pm, \$10/\$11

NEIGHBOURS Noche Latina, 10 pm–2 am, \$10

★ **NEPTUNE THEATRE** DDT, 7:30 pm, \$85–\$105

★ **NORDIC MUSEUM** Mostly Nordic Chamber Music Series: Iceland, 4 pm, \$25/\$30

R PLACE Homo Hop, 10 pm

★ **RE-BAR** Flammable, 10 pm–2 am, \$10

★ **THE ROYAL ROOM** Amendola vs. Blades, 8 pm, \$12/\$15

TRACTOR TAVERN An Evening with the Paperboys, 7 pm

★ **TRIPLE DOOR** Little Bill's 80th Birthday/Tribute concert, 7:30 pm, \$25/\$30

★ **TULA'S** Xavier Lecouturier Sextet, 7:30–10:30 pm, \$17

Mon 3/18

BARBOZA Amy! and the Sniffers, Monsterwatch, Procedure, 8 pm, \$13

★ **BAR SUE** Motown on Mondays, 10 pm, free

BROADWAY PERFORMANCE HALL Global Rhythms: Pedrito Martinez Group, 7:30 pm, \$20

RENDEZVOUS Seattle Guitar Orchestra with Mark Hilliard Wilson and Zane Forshee, 7 pm, \$10

SUNSET TAVERN Deb Montgomery, The Two Tides, The Winter Shakers, 7:30 pm

Tues 3/19

AQUA BY EL GAUCHO Ben Fleck, 6 pm, free

CHOP SUEY Erskine, Justin Hale, Blksnn, Liax, 8 pm, \$12/\$15

CONOR BYRNE Country Dance Night, 9:30 pm, free

★ **JAZZ ALLEY** Antonio Sanchez & Migration, 7:30 pm, \$31

NECTAR Black Uhuru, Onesty, Dub Lounge International, 8 pm, \$25–\$36

★ **PONCHO CONCERT HALL** Splinter Reeds, 8–10 pm, free

TRACTOR TAVERN The Suffers, 8 pm, \$15/\$17

TRIPLE DOOR MQ STAGE Mambo Cocktail Hour with Elspeth Savani, 5 pm, free

Wed 3/20

BARBOZA Farao, 8 pm, \$12

BROADWAY PERFORMANCE HALL Town Music: Talea Ensemble, 7:30 pm, \$20



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Northwest Record Show

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SUNDAY, MARCH 31

NEW LOCATION!

SEATTLE CENTER ARMORY at 305 HARRISON ST.



10am-4pm • Admission \$3
(\$2 with food item to benefit Northwest Harvest)

Please help Northwest Harvest collect food for local food banks.
Your food item worth \$1 off the price of admission.
Non-perishable canned/boxed foods only.

**For more information
call Mike:
206-850-2162**



cummin' Up

WED	3/13	HAPPY HOUR ALL NITE!
THU	3/14	HOT LOVE
FRI	3/15	DIFFERENT DRUMMER
SAT	3/16	AUDIODROME
SUN	3/17	WORLD'S TINNIEST TEA DANCE 4-9
MON	3/18	ROCK N ROLL QUEER BAR
TUE	3/19	GGNZLA KARAOKE
WED	3/20	HAPPY HOUR ALL NITE!
THU	3/21	QUEEN 4 QUEEN
FRI	3/22	SUGAR RUSH
SAT	3/23	DAD'S HOUSE
SUN	3/24	WORLD'S TINNIEST TEA DANCE 4-9
MON	3/25	HAPPY HOUR TIL 8PM
TUE	3/26	GGNZLA KARAOKE



Happy Hour
'til 8pm & all nite Wed
\$2 off drafts & wells



1221 E MADISON STREET

MON-THU 5PM-2AM

FRI-SUN 3PM-2AM



PONYSEATTLE

COLUMBIA CITY THEATER

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13
AFTON SHOWS PRESENTS
TOPPFLYYT
MATT THE WOLF, CATELAYA LOCA,
CRUZ CONTROL, DAMIANO UNIQUE
& SPECIAL GUESTS

THURSDAY, MARCH 14
TASTEMAKER PRESENTS
MARK ELLIS

FRI & SAT, MARCH 15 & 16
STRIPPED SCREW
BURLESQUE PRESENTS
**DISNEY AFTER DARK
& WALT'S DUNGEON**

SUNDAY, MARCH 17
RAHALE B.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20
MONQUI PRESENTS
**BEN OTTEWELL
& IAN BALL**
OF GOMEZ

THURSDAY, MARCH 21
PURIM: FROM THE WALL CITY
IRAQIS IN PAJAMAS
THE DEBAUCHERAUNTES
SHPIKIS

FRI & SAT, MARCH 22 & 23
STRIPPED SCREW
BURLESQUE PRESENTS
**DISNEY AFTER DARK
& WALT'S DUNGEON**

SUNDAY, MARCH 24
MONQUI PRESENTS
NINA NESBITT

TUES & WED, MARCH 26 & 27
BUILT TO SPILL
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
ORUÅ & THE FRENCH TIPS

THURSDAY, MARCH 28
INNOVENTURES
A SMALL BUSINESS PITCH
CONTEST AND FUNDRAISER

UPCOMING SHOWS
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MARCH 29 & 30
STRIPPED SCREW BURLESQUE'S
DISNEY AFTER DARK
SATURDAY, MARCH 30 (LATE)
A DECADE OF GRITTY GLAMI:
CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF
STRIPPED SCREW BURLESQUE
SUNDAY, MARCH 31
THE BEAU GOSS BAND
TUESDAY, APRIL 2
TENDER
THURSDAY, APRIL 4
SAM SHOEMAKER / NOBI / ADLIB
FRIDAY, APRIL 5
JS ONDARA
SATURDAY, APRIL 6
BON VIVANTS
SUNDAY, APRIL 7
AFTON SHOWS PRESENTS
THURSDAY, APRIL 11
SPINSTER - EP RELEASE SHOW
FRIDAY, APRIL 12
PIGS ON THE WING;
A TRIBUTE TO PINK FLOYD
PERFORMING "ANIMALS"
AVAILABLE FOR PRIVATE EVENTS
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2 FOR 1 RENTAL WEDNESDAY

SCARECROW ACADEMY PRESENTS
1959: THE GREATEST YEAR IN FILM HISTORY
A FILM DISCUSSION SERIES HOSTED BY ROBERT NORTON
DISCUSS INTERVIEWS & FILM SCREENING ROOM

GENERATED ONE
JANUARY 14: THE VAN CLIMB LOST DANCE DUEL DUEL
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Pop Culture in the #MeToo era
SATURDAY, APRIL 6 AT 7PM, FREE in our Screening Room

COLUMBIA CITY THEATER
Ben Ottewell & Ian Ball of Gomez, 8 pm, \$20
⚡ CROCODILE Jay Critch, 8 pm, \$17
EL CORAZON Bears Among Men, Mugshot, 7:30 pm, \$10/\$12
LO-FI The Apollo Era, Avinoam, The Arnolds, Saints By Day, 8 pm, \$20
⚡ THE ROYAL ROOM KNKX Presents Piano Starts Here: Emissaries of Latin and Jazz /Ai The Music of Gonzalo Rubalcaba, Danilo Perez, & Michel Camilo, 7:30 pm, \$5-\$12
⚡ THE SHOWBOX The Cat Empire, 8:30 pm, \$30/\$35
TIM'S TAVERN Jazz Night with Stuart McDonald, 8:30 pm, free
TRACTOR TAVERN Thaddillac, Big Tooth, Norman Baker & the Backroads, 8 pm
⚡ TULA'S Rex Gregory Quartet, 7:30-10 pm, \$15
⚡ VARIOUS LOCATIONS Salish Sea Early Music Festival 2019, \$15-\$25 suggested donation

★ CULT LJ Night, 10 pm-3 am, free
FOUNDATION Elevate Saturdays, 10 pm-2 am, \$18-40
⚡ THE FUNHOUSE The Happy Fits, Deal Casino, 7 pm, \$12/\$14
NECTAR Jeff Austin Band, 8 pm, \$16/\$21
NEUMOS Space Jesus, Buku, Sayer, Huxley Anne, 7 pm
Q NIGHTCLUB Haute Sauce: TWRK, 10 pm-2 am, \$10
⚡ THE ROYAL ROOM Do Peterson Band Plays Stevie Wonder, 6 pm, \$12/\$15
⚡ TRIPLE DOOR Sierra Hull, Sam Reider, 8 pm, \$27-\$35

Sun 3/24

BARBOZA Viagra Boys, Guests, 8 pm, \$13
★ ⚡ CROCODILE The Bright Light Social Hour, 8 pm, \$15
⚡ EL CORAZON Royal Coda, Kurt Travis, Body Thief, 6:30 pm, \$12/\$14
FOUNTAINHEAD GALLERY Wayne Horvitz and Peggy Lee, 6 pm, \$25/\$30
HIGH DIVE The Regrets, Blurred Out, Hi Crime, 2 pm, \$5/\$8
KREMWERK Flammable, Fraktured, and Studio 4/4 Present Sunday Block Party, 10 pm-2 am
★ THE SHOWBOX Citizen Cope, G. Love & Special Sauce, 8:30 pm, \$45/\$50
★ RE-BAR Flammable, 10 pm-2 am, \$10
⚡ THE ROYAL ROOM JazzED: Louis Armstrong and Nina Simone Choir, 4:30 pm, free
★ ⚡ TRIPLE DOOR Prateek Kuhad, 7:30 pm, \$15/\$17
★ ⚡ TULA'S Jim Cutler Jazz Orchestra, 7:30 pm, \$12
★ ⚡ VERA PROJECT Angel DuSt, Bugg, Skourge, Result of Choice, 7 pm, \$15/\$17

Thurs 3/21

AQUA BY EL GAUCHO Ben Fleck, 6 pm, free
★ BENAROYA HALL Seattle Symphony with Wayne Marshall: Shostakovich Symphony No. 15, \$22-\$122
⚡ CHOP SUEY Ella Vos, 8:30 pm, \$17/\$20
COLUMBIA CITY THEATER Crash the Glass, 8-11 pm
★ THE FUNHOUSE Mark "BBQ" Sultan, Sinister Six, Sir Cuyler & The Asthmatics, 8 pm, \$8/\$10
★ HAVANA Sophisticated Mama, 9 pm, free
THE RUNAWAY The Lowdown with DJ Basskidds and DJ Marvelous, 10 pm, free
⚡ TULA'S Axiom Quartet, 7:30 pm, \$12

Fri 3/22

★ BENAROYA HALL (untitled) 2, 10 pm, \$16
⚡ BLACK LODGE DoNormaal, Ormus, Avola, Kole Galbraith, 9 pm
⚡ CHAPEL PERFORMANCE SPACE Mother Tongue, Guests, 8 pm, \$5-\$15
CHOP SUEY The Black Queen, SRSQ, Uniform, 8 pm, \$20/\$23
⚡ CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION Bach & Buxtehude, 7:30 pm, \$10-\$20
HIGH DIVE Down North, Susie G, Form Destroyer, 9 pm, \$8/\$12
LO-FI Tourist Activities, Guests, 8 pm, \$8
⚡ MOORE THEATRE 18th Annual More Music at the Moore, 7:30 pm, \$15/\$17
⚡ NEPTUNE THEATRE 12th Planet, 9 pm, \$19/\$24
NEUMOS Naked Giants, 8 pm, \$15
R PLACE Transcendence, 9:30 pm, free
★ ⚡ SHOWBOX SODO Maren Morris, Cassadee Pope, 8 pm, \$40-\$199
TRACTOR TAVERN LDW Performs Talking Heads, Beards II Men, 9 pm
TRIPLE DOOR MQ STAGE Johnny 7 & The Black Crabs, 5 pm, free
⚡ TULA'S Thomas Marriott Quintet, 7:30-10:30 pm, \$22
THE UNDERGROUND STA Presents: Coldharbour Night with Nifra x Fisherman, 10 pm-3 am, \$15

Mon 3/25

★ BAR SUE Motown on Mondays, 10 pm, free
BARBOZA Alice Phoebe Lou, 8 pm, \$15
CAPITOL CIDER Monday Night Jam: "Cider Sessions", 9:30-11 pm, free
LO-FI B. Rocket tha Prophet, F I N K E L, Real Don Music, 8 pm, \$8
★ RE-BAR Collide-O-Scope, 7-10 pm, \$10
⚡ VARIOUS LOCATIONS Salish Sea Early Music Festival 2019, \$15-\$25 suggested donation

Tues 3/26

★ HAVANA Real Love '90s, 10 pm, \$5/Free before 10 pm
NECTAR Blue Lotus, Motus, 8 pm, \$7/\$11
⚡ NEPTUNE THEATRE Mt. Joy, 8 pm, \$16/\$19
⚡ THE ROYAL ROOM Diggin' Dirt, 8:30 pm, \$8/\$10
⚡ SHOWBOX SODO Catfish & the Bottlemen, 8 pm, \$30
TRACTOR TAVERN Delicate Steve, Thick Paint, 8 pm

Wed 3/27

★ CHOP SUEY Zen Mother, DIRTFACE, somesurprises, 8 pm, \$8/\$10
⚡ EL CORAZON Pkew Pkew Pkew, 7:30 pm, \$12/\$14
FOUNDATION SubSTANCE Wednesdays, 10 pm, \$10
HIGH DIVE Go Fever, Salt Lick, Coach Phillips, 8 pm, \$8
★ ⚡ JAZZ ALLEY Shemekia Copeland, 7:30 pm, \$31
TULA'S pH Factor Big Band, 7:30 pm, \$10
NECTAR Lucky Brown's Funkways, Ten Man Brass Band, Flip Phone, 8 pm, \$10-\$16
TRACTOR TAVERN Festival of Colors with Red Baraat & Vidya Vox, 8 pm

Sat 3/23

★ BENAROYA HALL Seattle Classic Guitar Society - David Russell, 7:30 pm, \$38
★ BENAROYA HALL Seattle Symphony with Wayne Marshall: Shostakovich Symphony No. 15, \$22-\$122
CHOP SUEY Dance Yourself Clean, 9 pm, \$5

THINGS TO DO → Film

The Paradox of Democracy and Poverty

Philosopher and filmmaker Astra Taylor makes her best work with the doc *What Is Democracy?*

BY CHARLES MUDEDE



Syrians marching for their human rights in Greece.

At the heart of *What Is Democracy?*, a documentary from Canadian American filmmaker/philosopher Astra Taylor, is a black American barber who is also an ex-convict. Ellie Brett is young, but he has already served nearly a decade in prison for what he describes as a bad decision. During his incarceration, he learned how to barber and, as a consequence, is now—in terms of the society he paid a big debt to—gainfully employed. He is interviewed while cutting, shaving, and sculpting the hair of this and that man. What makes his moment the heart of what this film is trying to express is a story he tells about being part of a hunger strike while he was in prison.

But before explaining what the hunger strike was about, he warns us that it may sound trivial, that it might not impress your common productive member of society. The protest did not have the grandeur of marching against gun control or for policies that address climate change. The big issues. Instead, the hunger strike was fueled by a library.

He and others locked up with him did not eat for months because the authorities were going to close their library. What's amazing is that Brett thinks this act seems frivolous, nothing more than, to use words from *Blade Runner*, "tears in the rain." But when you think about the protest in the context of Taylor's documentary, which impressively and tellingly examines the status of US democracy, predominantly from the perspective of black Americans (from school students, to workers, to philosophers like Cornel West), you realize the protest was all about democracy. They

understood what was at stake. Those prisoners were not criminals simply paying their debts—they were humans caught in a vicious feedback loop with politics as its source. The removal of the prison library corresponded to what Melle Mel described in his 1982 rap record *The Message* as a "bum education" in civil society. Those two (no library, underfunded public schools) cannot be dissociated.

The documentary's heart is made all the more clear when related to comments made by another interviewee—Silvia Federici, a thinker who is associated with the Italian Marxist movement autonomism, which emerged from the workerist movement of the 1960s. While examining panels of a 14th-century fresco (*The Allegory of Good and Bad Government* by Ambrogio Lorenzetti) with the director in the council room of Palazzo Pubblico in Siena, Italy, Federici explains that a part of the work concerns the punishment of lawbreakers.

But what kind of crimes did these chained and sometimes decapitated men commit? The mural does not tell us. They are just bad people. And that's that. But Federici and the director wonder: "Were their crimes just crimes, or were they political?" Connect that uncertainty with the black American barber, and we have the deepest understanding of democracy, not only in the age of Trump, but in the West as a whole. Exactly what constitutes a crime in an over-rich society? Poverty or an offense against the laws that protect and concentrate wealth? And is democracy possible in such a social condition? Extreme wealth next to extreme poverty? This doc, which is weirdly tranquil, explores not so much democracy but the roots of much of the misery in our one and only world. ■

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THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

“Imagine *Full Metal Jacket* as directed by Private Joker.”
David Schwartz, Museum of the Moving Image

ICEMAN MAR 15-21

COMBAT OBSCURA MAR 15-21

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THINGS TO DO → Film



Birds of Passage

WED MARCH 20

‘Island of the Hungry Ghosts’

Embarrassingly, I had no idea what Christmas Island was before I stumbled onto this film. It sounds cute and jolly, but it's not. It's been referred to as Australia's Guantánamo—an island filled with refugees, asylum seekers, and detained immigrants. People go in and they don't come out. It's haunting, and currently the subject of a dramatic political debate in that southern continent. Filmmaker Gabrielle Brady has created an arresting, emotional documentary about the island's effects. (Northwest Film Forum, 7:30 pm, \$12.) **CHASE BURNS**

OPENING FRI MARCH 15

‘Captive State’

One of two stars to emerge from Barry Jenkins's 2016 film *Moonlight* is Ashton Sanders—the other being, of course, Mahershala Ali. Sanders, who is 23, has a face that communicates the struggle of a soul that is continually torn between rage and submission. It is this quality that gave the final classroom scene (attacking a bully) in *Moonlight* its electrifying power. In *Captive State*, directed by Rupert Wyatt (*Rise of the Planet of the Apes*), Sanders plays a young man who is considering joining a resistance movement against an alien power that rules in the United States in much the same way that the Trump administration does: with lies. (Wide release.) **CHARLES MUDEDE**



‘Birds of Passage’

Selected by Colombia as its entry for the Oscars' best foreign language film category, *Birds of Passage* has received several excellent reviews for coupling stark images of rural life with an epic narrative. Directed by Cristina Gallego and Ciro Guerra (they're also the pair behind the surreal and gorgeous *Embrace of the Serpent*), the film concerns the impact of the drug trade on a family. The *New York Times*' A.O. Scott describes *Birds of Passage* as “an epic narco tale that will open your mind.” (Various locations, \$10–\$14.) **CHARLES MUDEDE**

OPENING FRI MARCH 22



‘Us’

We live in strange times. If we all went back to 2012 or 2013 and told those watching the *Key & Peele* show that Jordan Peele would end up, at the end of the decade, not only writing and directing a blockbuster horror film, *Get Out*, but also hosting a reboot of *Twilight Zone*, and, damn, also directing a second horror film called *Us*, they would have said: “You crazy.” (Wide release.)

CHARLES MUDEDE

MORE StrangerThingsToDo.com

Short List

Animation Show of Shows

SIFF Cinema Uptown, \$11/\$14, through March 14

Binge Watch ‘Shrill’ with Lindy West

The Cloud Room, Fri March 15, 5–10 pm, \$20 (sold out)

British Comedy Classics
Seattle Art Museum, March 21–May 16, \$9–\$78

ByDesign Film Festival
Northwest Film Forum, March 15–17, free–\$52

Combat Obscura
Grand Illusion, March 15–21, \$10

Howl's Moving Castle
Central Cinema, March 22–26, \$5–\$10

Iceman
Grand Illusion, March 15–21, \$10

The Magic Lantern of Ingmar Bergman: ‘Fanny and Alexander’
Seattle Art Museum, Thurs March 14, 7:30 pm, \$9

Nocturnal Emissions: ‘The People Under the Stairs’
Northwest Film Forum, Thurs March 21, 7:30 pm, \$16

Seattle Jewish Film Festival
Various locations, March 23–31 & April 6–7, \$15–\$225

Styx
SIFF Film Center, opening Fri March 15, \$11/\$14

Wrestle
Northwest Film Forum, March 22–24, \$12

Early Warnings

DUMBO Wide release, opening Fri March 29

HOTEL MUMBAI Wide release, opening Fri March 29

THINGS  DO → Food & Drink

The “Equal Opportunity Geek” Coffee Shop

Wayward Coffeehouse in Roosevelt is the nerdvana you’ve been looking for.

BY NATHALIE GRAHAM

From the outside, Wayward Coffeehouse looks like your standard cafe: a few tables, a smattering of chairs. After entering, you come to a few realizations. Mostly that it’s bigger on the inside.

WAYWARD COFFEEHOUSE
6417 Roosevelt Way
NE, 206-525-5191

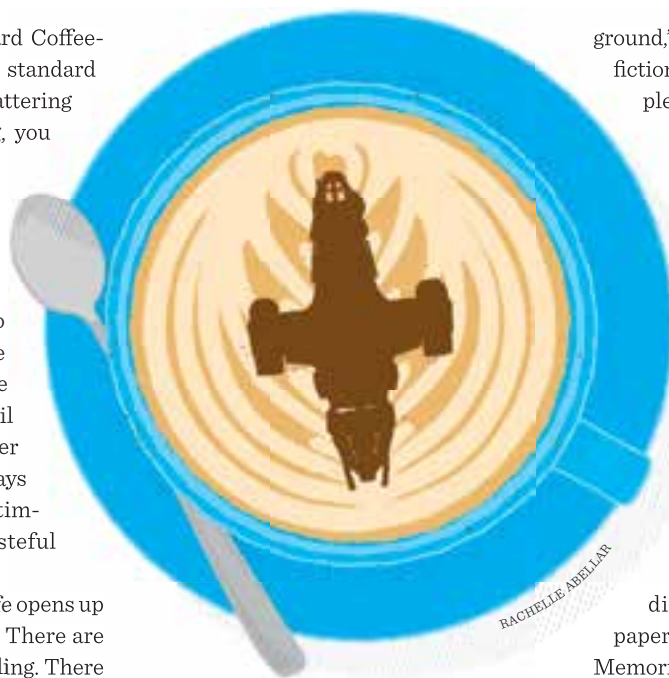
I didn’t fully understand why so many people had told me

that I would love Wayward until I pushed open the door. The inner geek in me—something that’s always there but lies dormant unless stimulated by memorabilia or a tasteful graphic tee—flared to life.

After you turn a corner, the cafe opens up unexpectedly into a huge space. There are spaceships hanging from the ceiling. There is fan art from seemingly every TV show with a cult following. There are cushy armchairs, big tables, small tables, and bookshelves. There are multiple universes. You’ll notice an abundance of *Firefly* memorabilia and (if you have a keen eye) a photo of Wayward’s owner with Captain Mal himself (the actor Nathan Fillion stopped by the cafe once).

“Though we have a strong preponderance of *Firefly* and *Serenity* here,” an employee said, “we are equal opportunity geek. We draw from all the different geekdoms. I love that we can represent geeks of all kinds.”

There’s a special menu of coffee drinks on a whiteboard near the register that challenges you to name the references. No customer has ever gotten them all. There’s



There are spaceships hanging from the ceiling and geeky drink names.

the Mudder’s Mocha, the Iocane Latte, the TARDIS, and (my favorite) the Devil’s Trap.

This place is like nerdvana. It understands you as a geek and as a person. It’s also not just a space for geeks, but for the community.

“Science fiction and fantasy have always been places where people can have common

ground,” the employee said. “A lot of science fiction and fantasy is about accepting people’s differences. It’s about exploring new worlds, it’s about seeing the best in people, it’s about understanding new possibilities. That to me is what science fiction fantasy does and that’s why I love it. It gives people the possibility to broaden their experiences even if they can’t leave where they live. It gives them the opportunity to experience how another perspective can present itself.”

Wayward Coffeehouse opened in 2005. Since then, it’s hosted marriage proposals, weddings, and baby showers. Divorce papers have been signed on those tables. Memorial services have been held under the spaceships.

It is its own microcosm of Seattle. The cafe was christened “wayward,” as in wanderer, because it’s a place for wayward souls who don’t necessarily fit into the establishment or the status quo. There’s a magnetism to any gathering place where you can talk about what you love, no matter how nerdy it is.

For the longest time, geek fandom was my life. But, as time has worn on and “real life” has taken precedence, those feelings and interests have dulled. When I’m in Wayward, that changes. I want to be the geek I was. I want to talk about season finales I loved, subtextual clues I noticed, fandom drama I reveled in, and how *Supernatural* went off the deep end. ■



AUBRIE PICK

Top Picks

MON MARCH 18

Andrea Nguyen:
‘Vietnamese Food Any Day’

James Beard Award-winning author Andrea Nguyen is a respected authority on Vietnamese cuisine. Her new book, *Vietnamese Food Any Day*, makes Vietnamese cooking more accessible than ever by explaining how to prepare authentic flavors at home using ingredients you can procure at any mainstream grocery store. It includes recipes for dishes like honey-glazed pork riblets, chile garlic chicken wings, and no-churn Vietnamese coffee ice cream. At this event, she’ll discuss the book


and sign copies purchased at Book Larder. (Book Larder, 6:30 pm, free.) JULIANNE BELL

WED MARCH 20

Brave Horse & FareStart
Cook’s Feast

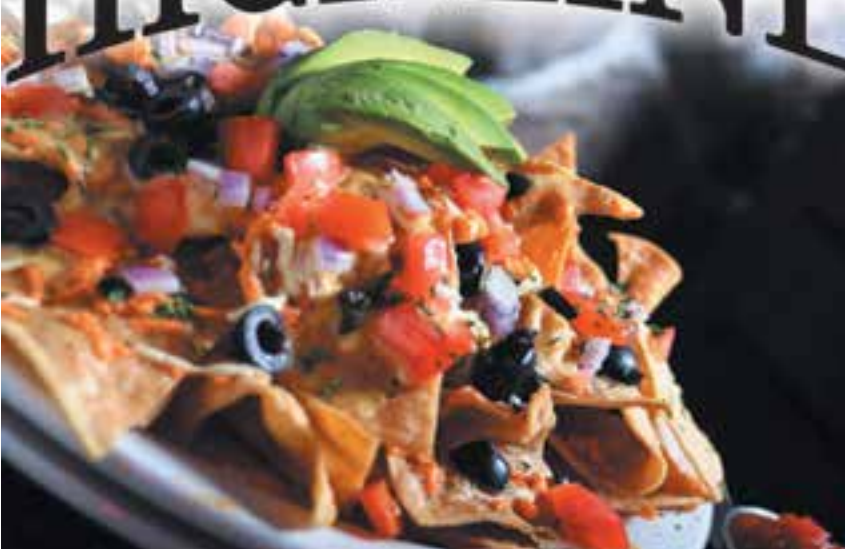
FareStart is a local nonprofit that provides job opportunities to disadvantaged and homeless people by giving them access to resources for life skills, job training, and employment in the food service industry. Brave Horse Tavern, Tom Douglas’s cozy South Lake Union gastropub, counts six proud FareStart graduates among its line cooks, and for this dinner, they’ll prepare a feast in collaboration with executive chef Bradley Layfield to raise funds for FareStart. Raffle prizes and “other fun surprises” included. (Brave Horse Tavern, 6:30 pm, \$55.) JULIANNE BELL

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THINGS DO → Food & Drink



Northwest Women Stars of Food & Wine

TOSH REMCHUK

MARCH 22–APRIL 7

Plate of Nations

Every year, Plate of Nations presents a two-week-long opportunity for us to avail ourselves of the rich and varied cuisines of Rainier Valley, with shareable plates priced at \$20 and \$30. This year, 14 restaurants are participating, with Mexican, Chinese, Vietnamese, Peruvian, Mediterranean, and more represented in the mix. Among the highlights are Szechuan fare from Little Chengdu, smoky Peruvian charcoal-roasted rotisserie chicken from Big Chickie, inimitable tacos from Tacos Chukis, and Ethiopian food from Cafe Ibex. “If you’ve never been to Cafe Ibex... you’re missing out on some of the best food in town,” former *Stranger* food editor Angela Garbes once wrote about the event. “South Seattle is where it’s at. Catch up.” (*Various locations, \$20/\$30.*) **JULIANNE BELL**

SAT MARCH 23

20th Annual Washington Cask Beer Festival

Lester Black calls cask ale “the most underappreciated beer style in Seattle,” noting that its “mel-low carbonation, smooth flavor, and not-quite-cold serving temperature perfectly complement never-ending rainy days.” Try it for yourself at this festival featuring cask-conditioned beers from more than 40 different Washington breweries. (*Seattle Center Exhibition Hall, 12–9:30 pm, \$40.*) **JULIANNE BELL**

SUN MARCH 24

Northwest Women Stars of Food & Wine

This annual reception gathers tastemaking women chefs, winemakers, and sommeliers of the Pacific Northwest (and their fans) for a night of bites and drinks. The lineup this year includes Monica Dimas, chef and owner of Neon Taco, Westman’s Bagel and Coffee, and Little Neon Taco; chef and “hummus maven” Kristi Brown, owner of That Brown Girl Cooks!; chef Nicole Matson of How to Cook a Wolf; Tana Mielke, chef and owner of Omega Ouzeri; Emme Ribeiro Collins, chef and owner of Alcove Dining Room; and many others.

Besides food, there are exclusive tastings, plus wine, beer, cider, spirits, and a sparkling wine bar. The event raises funds for the SOS Clinic, a free urgent-care clinic in Walla Walla serving uninsured migrant workers. (*Sanctuary at the Mark, 1–5 pm, \$75–\$120.*) **JULIANNE BELL**

MORE StrangerThingsToDo.com

New Bars & Restaurants

CHINATOWN-INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT
Hood Famous Cafe and Bar
Filipino-inspired cafe and bar
504 Fifth Ave S, Suite 107A

FIRST HILL
Bonchon
Korean fried chicken chain
554 Broadway

GEORGETOWN
Falafel Salam
Israeli-Mediterranean food
5825 Airport Way S

GREENWOOD
Greenwood Flame Burger
Burger joint
10410 Greenwood Ave N

INTERBAY
Ugly Mug Cafe & Coffee Roasters
Coffee shop with pastries and specialty drinks
1607 W Dravus St

PIONEER SQUARE
Jujubeet
Fresh juices and vegan/vegetarian food
107 First Ave S

Short List

Brewology
Pacific Science Center, Fri
March 22, 7–10 pm, \$50

Drunk Herstory Three
Brouwer’s Cafe, Wed
March 27, 6 pm, \$10 suggested donation

Free Grilled Cheese Day
Ounces, Sat March 16,
2–5 pm

Gin Is Not a Four Letter Word
Central Smoke, Mon
March 18, 12–3 pm, free

Museum of Glass Eighth Annual Slider Cook-off
Museum of Glass, Sat
March 23, 6:30–10 pm,
\$45/\$100

Night Tide Oyster Soiree: Samish
Taylor Shellfish Farms, Sat
March 16, \$150

Pop-Up Mimosa Bar
Chateau Ste. Michelle,
Sun, 10 am, \$10, through
March 31

A Savory Vegan Pop-Up with Chef Joshua Ploeg
Pettiroso, Mon March 25,
6–9 pm


Whiskey & Waffles Brunch
W Seattle, Sun March 24,
9 am–2 pm, \$5–\$20

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Early Warnings

BEECHER'S CHEESE FOR ALL Block 41, Sat April 6, 1–8 pm, \$45/\$75

SEATTLE RESTAURANT WEEK Various locations, April 7–18, \$20/\$35

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RACE
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ALIGNMENT

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XP

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8 DEXTERITY
13 CONSTITUTION
14 INTELLIGENCE
16 WISDOM
10 CHARISMA

SAVING THROWS

SKILLS

CHARACTER NOTES

EQUIPMENT

ATTACKS / SPELLS

FLAWS

Faking Out BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
14				15								16		
17			18									19		
20						21				22				
23					24	25				26				
			27	28					29					
30	31	32		33			34	35		36			37	38
39			40						41					
42						43						44		
		45						46			47			
48	49				50	51	52				53	54	55	56
57					58					59				
60				61				62	63					
64				65								66		
67				68								69		

ACROSS

- Rabbit's foot, e.g.
- Left-leaning
- LA setting
- "Can't believe it"
- Solo admission?
- "Bad Romance" chanting word
- Scammer's brute?
- "___ fool"
- Chops down, as trees
- Louisiana primary?
- "Don't front!"
- Taken in
- Thing that doesn't water your lawn?
- Clarifying phrase
- Salad dressing choice
- "I'd say," in texts
- Friend of Flounder and Sebastian
- Took a nap
- Event that shows faux flicks?
- Word on a triangular sign
- "___ in Guyville" (Liz Phair album)
- Small business?
- Each of the theme answers in this puzzle, e.g.
- Cartoon alcoholic Andy
- Unbelievable strut?
- Fourth book in the Book of Mormon

- Away from the wind
- Affirmative that sounds like a pronoun
- The first blank in ___ Breakfast ___
- The second blank in ___ Breakfast ___
- Riverdale High nonsense?
- Drugstore with comically long receipts
- Story of Jesus
- Cosmetologist Marini
- Little giggle
- Exam you might have trouble focusing on
- "___ you finished?"

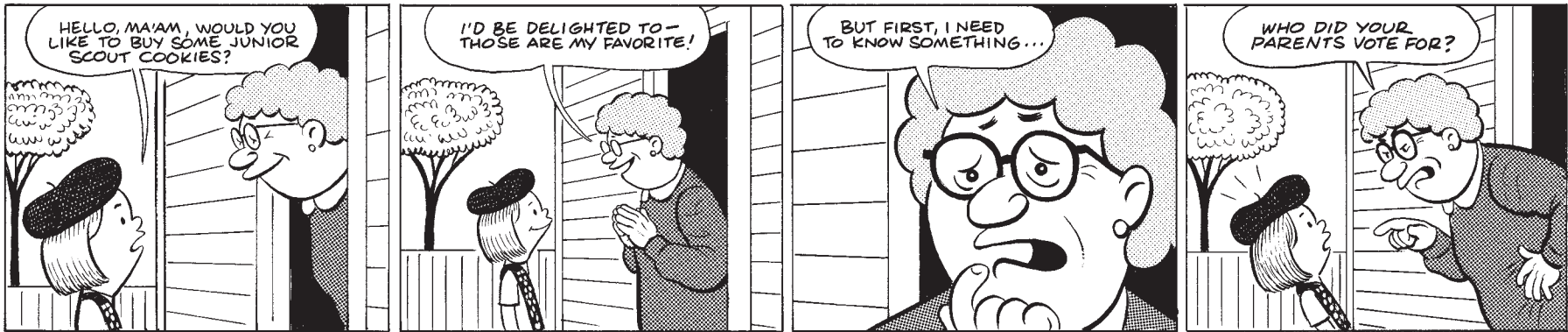
- Covering on some nachos
- One in a pink onesie
- "Kiki's Delivery Service" genre
- Warning on a wing
- Refused
- Like some stares
- False innocent reply
- Ticket request
- Das ___ (1990s hip-hop group)
- Lens name
- Move, as the camera
- "Waterfalls" singers
- 1 in a 1,000,000 occurrence
- Mosh pit maneuver
- Sols are spent there
- "Let me do my thing"
- Anaprox alternative
- Sudden invasion
- Café sweetener
- Drummers sometimes ride it
- Japanese mercenary
- Award given out the day after the Razzies
- Glowed
- "Sounds fishy"
- Missing link's relative
- "When will ___ paid?"
- 2015 Payne Stewart Award winner

DOWN

- Smoke signals
- See eye to eye
- Ambergris maker
- Coverage providers
- Talks over Skype
- Bleat
- Young eel
- Creator of Matilda and Charlie
- Hidden motive
- Tennessee governor Bill ___
- "If This Is a Man" author
- Islands studied by Mead
- Props, another way
- Arm bone

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